



Pucklechurch Cricket Club

Youth Player Welfare Policies

Pucklechurch Cricket Club – Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

Pucklechurch Cricket Club (The Club) is committed to ensuring that all children (*) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

*(*The word “children” should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18.)*

We will do this by:

- Recognising that all children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.
- Ensuring that individuals working within cricket at or for our club provide a safe, positive and fun cricketing experience for children.
- Adopting and implementing the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) “*Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children*” and any future versions of the policy.
- Appointing a Club Welfare Officer and ensuring that they attend all current and future training modules required by the ECB & the NSPCC, so that they have the necessary skills to be able to undertake their role effectively.
- Ensuring that all people who work in cricket at or for our club, (such as Staff, Officials, Volunteers, Team Managers, Coaches etc.) understand that the Safe Hands Policy applies to them according to their level of contact with children in cricket.
- Ensuring that all individuals working within cricket at or for the club are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines.

- Ensuring that all individuals working within cricket at or for the club are provided with support through education and training so that they are aware of and can adhere to good practice and code of conduct guidelines defined by both the ECB, and by the club.
- Ensuring that the name & contact details for the Club Welfare Officer is available
 - as the first point of contact for parents, children & volunteers / staff within the club
 - as a local source of procedural advice for the club, its committee & its members
 - as the main point of contact within the club for the ECB County Welfare Officer and the ECB Child Protection Team and as the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in connection with child welfare
- Ensuring that correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing safeguarding and child protection concerns. Such procedures recognising the responsibility of the statutory agencies and in accordance with pre defined safeguarding and child protection procedures as defined by the ECB, Statutory agencies and Local Safeguarding Children Board LSCB guidelines and policies.
- Providing everyone connected with the club (including parents, children and volunteers) with the opportunity to voice any concerns which they have (about possible suspected child abuse, and/or about poor practice) to the Club Welfare Officer.
- Ensuring that all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Ensuring that access to confidential information relating to child welfare matters is restricted to the Club Welfare Officer and the appropriate external authorities as specified within ECB Safeguarding and child protection procedures.

- The following specific policy statements are all based on guidance contained within the ECB' s *“Safe Hands – Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children”* as well as recent updates/clarifications.

1. Young Players and Open Age Cricket

Pucklechurch Cricket Club recognises that it has a duty of care towards all young players aged under 18 who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to leagues that allow the participation of young players in open age groups in their league. The Club therefore undertakes:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

The Club recognises the positive experience that young players should have in open age cricket and will provide opportunities for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children will not be used just as fielders as they will not fully experience the game. The following will apply:

- Under 12 age group players* and younger should not play in open age competitive cricket.
- Under 13 age group players* can play in open age group competitive cricket, (i.e. players aged 12 and over) if considered by a qualified Level 2 coach or above that it is appropriate for their development
- Under 13 age group players will need prior explicit written parental consent to play as this recognises the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in open age competitive cricket rather than purely junior cricket
- Over 13 year old players are free to play open age cricket.
- ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations will be followed

- Responsible adults will be supportive at all times for all forms of effort even when children are not successful and will try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. team talks, practice, decision making etc. so that they feel part of the team.

**Junior cricket age groups are set by the age of the player on the 31st August preceding the season of play.*

2. Anti- Bullying Code of Conduct

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur, all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a TELLING club. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff and officials. Bullying is the use of aggression with the intention of hurting another person and results in pain and distress to the victim. It can be:

- Emotional: being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting (e.g. hiding kit, threatening gestures)
- Physical: pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist: racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual: unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic: because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal: name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing
- Cyber: All areas of internet, such as email and internet chat room misuse, mobile phones and Facebook.
- Threats by text messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology, i.e. camera and video facilities

Pucklechurch Cricket Club officials, coaching and non-coaching staff, children and parents should have an understanding of what bullying is and what to do if it arises. As a club we take bullying seriously and children and parents should be assured:

That they will be supported when bullying is reported. Bullying will not be tolerated. To this end:

1. All bullying incidents should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer
2. The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying will be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
3. Parents will be informed and will be asked to come in to a meeting to discuss the problem
4. An attempt will be made to help the bully (bullies) change their behaviour
5. In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the County Welfare Officer. In cases of adults reported to be bullying cricketers under 18, the ECB will always be informed and will advise on action to be taken
6. If necessary and appropriate, the police will be consulted

3. Changing Rooms

The principles adopted by Pucklechurch Cricket Club are as follows:

- Adults must not change or shower at the same time using the same facility as children
- Adults will try to change at separate times to children during matches i.e. when padding up
- If adults and children need to share a changing facility, the Club must have consent from parents that their child(ren) can share a changing room with adults in the club
- If children play for adult teams, they and their parents will be informed of the Club's policy on changing arrangements
- Mixed gender teams will have access to separate male and female changing rooms
- Mobile phones will not be used in changing rooms
- Adults without direct association to a youth player either as a parent/guardian or team coach will not be permitted to enter the changing rooms whilst youth teams are changing
- If children are uncomfortable changing or showering at the Club, no pressure will be placed on them to do so and they will be encouraged to do this at home

4. Transport & Management of Children Away from the Club

It is not the responsibility of the Coach or Team Manager to transport, or arrange to transport, children to and from the Club or match. Parents /Carers are responsible for the safe delivery and collection of their child for matches or training. To this end:

- A list of all planned home and away fixtures or competitions will be provided to Parents / Carers at the beginning of the season so that they have time to make appropriate arrangements
- Coaches and Club officials will be only be responsible for the children in their care when playing as part of a team on the Club premises or on arrival at opponents' cricket grounds.
- The Coach or Team manager will establish with Parents/Carers a “pick up and drop off” point and address arrangements for late collection of children should this arise.

In any given season the potential exists for 50% of matches to be away from the club. The Team Manager or Coach will establish and communicate the following information to Parents/carers:

- the venue for the fixture
- meeting time and point (if appropriate)
- contact details
- Kit / equipment requirements
- Name and contact number of the person acting as the 'Club Home Contact' in case of difficulties
- ensure they have a written copy of the relevant emergency contact details and any medical information with them for all children who are taking part in the match for whom they have a duty of care
- identify anyone else acting in a support role

5. Missing Children

In the unlikely event that a child for whom the Club has responsibility goes missing, the following actions will be taken by Club officials, the Team Manager or Coach:

- Ensure the other children in their care are looked after appropriately while a search for the child concerned. Is organised
- Inform the child's parents if they are present at the event, or nominate an appropriate person to telephone them and advise them of the concern
- Organise all available responsible adults by areas to be searched
- Search the area in which the child has gone missing including changing rooms, toilets, public and private areas and the club grounds
- Request all those searching report back to a nominated adult at a specific point. This nominated person will remain at this specific reference point and make a detailed physical description of the child
- If the initial search is unsuccessful a report will be made to the police no later than 20 minutes after the child's disappearance is noted, even if the search is not complete.
- Follow police guidance as to any further actions to take
- At any stage when the child is located ensure all adults involved including the parents, searchers and police (if they are by then involved) are informed
- All missing child incidents will be notified at the very earliest opportunity to the Club Welfare Officer

6. Photography & Video

The Club does not prevent the use of photographic or videoing equipment as we do not believe that parents should be prevented from taking pictures of, or filming their children. These are normal family practices and help mark milestones in a child's life. The introduction of proportionate controls on the use of photographic equipment (cameras, videos, including mobile phones) is an element of general safeguarding good practice in the club. However some people may use sporting events as an opportunity to take inappropriate photographs or film footage of children. Everyone associated with the Club (both officials and families) should be vigilant with regard to this and any concerns during an event should be reported to a club official or event organiser. There may also be other reasons why individuals may not wish their child's photograph to be taken by someone they do not know personally. The Club has adopted the following principles relating to the use of cameras during matches, training sessions and other club occasions is as follows:

- Photographs / images should not to be taken at matches or training without the prior permission of the parents/carers of the children. This permission can be given by proxy by the Coach of each team only after parental consent for this has been granted (via the player profile form).
- If no consent has been given for a child on the player profile form, then this is will be made known to all relevant Coaches so that no photos are taken of that particular child.
- Children will generally be informed if a person will be taking photographs
- Children will be informed that if they have concerns they can report these to the Coach or Team Manager
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern
- Images of children will only be published (for example on the web, in the media or in league handbooks) with parental permission - wherever possible these images will be shown to the parents and child in advance
- Children and parents will be made aware of the way the image is to be used to represent Cricket and the Club
- Wherever possible names will not be attached to images
- The Club will only use images of children in appropriate kit (training or competition)
- Video equipment may be used as a legitimate coaching aid but players and Parents/Carers will be made aware that this is part of a coaching programme
- Footage taken in connection with coaching will be stored securely and will be deleted / destroyed when a parent requests this, or when the material is no longer needed.
- Photography and video analysis will only be undertaken where parents/carers and children have provided written consent on the player profile form

7. Cricket Helmets

In February 2000 the ECB issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. The Club adheres to this guidance which recommends that:

- helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions
- helmets with a faceguard are a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)
- young wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector when standing up to the stumps

N.B parental consent not to wear a helmet **will not be accepted** in any form of cricket. This applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in open age group cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball and also applies during all practice sessions.

8. Fielding & Fast Bowling Directives

The Club adheres to ECB fielding & fast bowling directives – the details of these and all other ECB recommendations/guidance which form the basis of these policies can be found at:

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/>

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/safe-hands/>

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection/safe-hands/download-safe-hands,450,BP.html>