



Safeguarding Update April 2024

I hope this finds you all well as we commence another season It has been a busy time behind the scenes in respect of Safeguarding within the ECB including a name change to Safeguarding Cricket Regulator. Safeguarding now relates to all involved, it obviously has an emphasis on young people and vulnerable adults, but we do have a duty to safeguard all.

Adoption of Club Safeguarding policy

I have previously circulated this in respect of the adoption of Club Safeguarding Policy so just a reminder to clubs to use it and adopt accordingly it can be accessed via;
<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/policies-and-procedures>

ECB Safeguarding Kit bag

The ECB kit bag has been updated it is well worth having a look to ensure your club is aware of the changes it can be accessed via.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/kit-bag-resources>

There are templates on the site for clubs to use to assist with codes of conduct, so please use them, all you need to do is download and add your club logos.

You will see there are a few areas that still need to be updated but the majority have been or will be removed if no longer relevant.

The resources will certainly assist you in promoting Safeguarding within your clubs.

Social Media

Social media, when used properly, offers many positive communication opportunities for cricket clubs. It is important to follow some simple guidelines to ensure that social media can be safely used as a promotional tool and a means of communication for the club.

Remember: cricket is an open age and open gender sport. The ECB latest Social-Media-Communication-and-online-Safety Guidance can be found by accessing the above-mentioned ECB Resource kit bag.

It has been updated and has some useful links and I suggest sharing it with whoever in your club is responsible for social media and running group chats.

In respect of group chats under 18`s need to have a parent/carer included in the group chat. Please also be careful and consider what you share on social media as photos of youngsters can be misused. Please do not identify any person u18 in respect of photographs.

Another tip is to ensure club social media platforms have more than one admin and keep your account secure by enabling two factor authentication.

DBS Updates

A reminder that all involved in Regulated activity within cricket need to have a DBS in place. A DBS checks is only relevant on the date the check was carried out. It should not be the only checks made when recruiting persons to regulated roles. It is worth looking at the following site for a full list of who require a DBS check and safer recruitment information.

www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/safer-recruitment.



DBS checks are now carried out annually, so please check that those currently in post their DBS has not expired. I have found a number have failed to respond to the emails from the ECB DBS team and consequently their DBS will lapse and be marked as expired meaning they cannot be involved in regulated activity within cricket.

SHMS will assist you in this as it highlights those who are out of date so regular checks will keep you informed. If you do not have access, then liaise with your Club Administrator for SHMS. In time all affiliated clubs will need to register to use this system.

Scorers

As you know Scorers, no longer need a DBS. There has been a circulation to all ACO scorers on best practice where a youngster is scoring with an adult. It mainly relates to the rule of 2 that the youngster should never be alone with an adult scorer.

The safeguarding team is currently putting together best practice advice and I will circulate this when available.

Overseas

Those clubs who have overseas coaches for this season please ensure that the **ECB Non-UK resident vetting form 2024** is completed and along with copies of documents requested forward to dbs@ecb.co.uk. This is in addition to what leagues require.

It ensures that the ECB carry out Safeguarding Checks with the relevant Cricket boards to check qualifications. This information is inputted onto ECB systems and the club should add them to SHMS.

This is required in respect of all overseas coaches whether paid coaches or volunteers for example a youngster who may be travelling on a Youth mobility visa. The latter are allowed to volunteer and coach but not allowed to receive payment for coaching under their visa restrictions. This also applies to those on visitor visas. Any questions regarding this please do not hesitate to contact myself or the relevant league committee.

Low level concerns

The ECB have introduced a new national portal for capturing details of Low-Level Concerns (LLC) that have come to light in clubs and within County Boards. We were asked by the ECB to send details at the end of 2023 of those cases recorded over the last 2 years which we have complied to.

If you have any recent LLC involving safeguarding at your club, please make contact. I am the first point of contact for any support or guidance around LLC. I can assist and give guidance on what level it should be reported at.

Although a minor issue may not be considered worth reporting if you have been made aware of it, then it should be recorded, and I suggest advice sought. Having it recorded can allow us to track and check any other minor concerns recorded against individuals and where applicable; take appropriate action, before anything escalates.

We have had only a few reports from clubs this is rather concerning and has been mentioned by our Regional Advisor during recent Safeguarding meetings.



Listening to children

We are looking at areas of good practice amongst clubs in respect of listening to children. We made a promising start at County level interacting with young persons. We now however are looking for examples of best practice and ideas that you may be doing at your Club share and use as best practice. Whether it be holding youth forums to how feedback from youth members is obtained and used please let us know.

Sport Welfare Officers

The above have been appointed across England and work with Sport England and Active sports partnerships (eg Active Suffolk). If you are contacted by a person purporting to be carrying out this role then please contact me. The ECB Safeguarding team are in talks with these organisations to agree working practices and run a pilot scheme in various counties.

County Safeguarding Role

I would also like to make you aware that I have decided to stand down at the end season from this role. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the years. It has been greatly appreciated. Suffolk Cricket Board will start the process of recruiting a successor in the next few months.

I hope you find these updates useful and will assist in ensuring that we are as a County and at Club level that cricket is taking place in a safe, and enjoyable environment.

I thank you all for the part you play in making this happen.

If you have any further questions or require more information about anything mentioned in this newsletter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

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