



Clubmark replacement

Headline Changes:

New ECB Accredited Club Status will replace the current Clubmark accreditation from 2026, with a full rollout in 2027. This new approach is designed to strengthen club governance, safeguarding, and sustainability.

Club Affiliation will become the foundation for accreditation with a phased transition:

2026 will be a transition year, focusing on preparation and understanding new requirements. Signing of the Terms & Conditions (T&Cs) of Affiliation is mandatory.

From 2027, affiliation will be evidence-based, with clubs required to demonstrate compliance in key areas such as governance, safeguarding, and operations.

Key Information for 2026:

Existing Clubmark Clubs: Clubs with a valid Clubmark accreditation (awarded 2022-2025) will retain their accredited status throughout 2026. This will allow them to continue to meet the accreditation requirements for Premier League participation, overseas player sponsorship, and grant funding applications during this period.

2026 Pilot Programme: A pilot accreditation programme will run for clubs not currently holding Clubmark but interested in achieving accredited status ahead of the full 2027 launch. Details of this programme will be shared by RCBs in the coming weeks.

Supporting Resources: A comprehensive [Club Affiliation Toolkit](#) has been developed, which includes the vital guidance document on [Affiliation and the T&Cs for clubs](#). We encourage Premier Leagues to share this toolkit with their clubs to aid understanding and preparation.

Next Steps:

Clubs are encouraged to:

Review the Club Affiliation Toolkit and prepare for the mandatory signing of the affiliation T&Cs in 2026.

This is an exciting step forward in supporting clubs to thrive and provide safe, welcoming, and sustainable environments for cricket.

Girls Cricket

The ECB have asked the League to remind any clubs in our top two 1st XI divisions that remain non-compliant with the girls' requirement that the deadline for compliance is **March 31st** to avoid a points deduction ahead of the 2026 season. Please note clubs that are not yet compliant but can demonstrate sustained efforts to establish a girls' section—supported and evidenced by the YCF—will not incur penalties for the 2026 season. Evidence should include ongoing dialogue with YCF staff over a significant period and examples of planned activity, such as softball taster sessions or school engagement. The requirements are:

- have a girls team activator by March 31st, 2026
- have at least one girls' team

Junior Cricket

The below information is a reminder of the ECB requirement which all Premier League Clubs in our top two 1st XI divisions must comply with:

- three junior hard ball teams (for 2026 this will be at any age group from and including U10 up to U18 and can include a girl's hardball team)
- a cricket programme available for 5-11 years which can include All Stars/Dynamos or a clubs own 5-11 years programme

Safeguarding

The YCF Safeguarding team has been renamed and are now known as the **Safe and Fair Cricket team**. They remain responsible for all Safeguarding matters and have also been given additional responsibilities including Anti-discrimination and Misconduct matters.

A new website is being developed along with a new case management system. These will be rolled out in the new year

The Cricket Regulator has launched an updated reporting form for concerns that meet the required threshold. You can access the new form here: [Clue Webform](#). Below is a brief reminder of the distinctions between the different types of concerns:

Welfare Concerns

These relate to general wellbeing issues, support needs, or situations that do not suggest a risk of harm.

- Examples: poor behaviour, minor disputes, low-level support needs, issues best dealt with internally.
- Action: *These should be managed at club level* through normal welfare processes. They should not be submitted through the Cricket Regulator's reporting form.

Low-Level Concerns (LLC)

These involve behaviour or situations that may not meet safeguarding thresholds but could indicate emerging patterns or require monitoring.

- Examples: one off comments, minor boundary issues, signs of inappropriate behaviour.
- Action: These should be submitted through the Cricket Regulator's reporting form so they can be properly recorded and monitored.

Threshold Concerns

These are safeguarding issues that indicate a child or adult at risk may be harmed or is at significant risk of harm.

- Examples: disclosures, allegations of abuse, serious misconduct, concerns about grooming or exploitation.
- Action: These must be reported via the Cricket Regulator's reporting form immediately.

Safe Hands Management System

HPCL have mandated that all affiliated clubs must register on the Safe Hands Management System. This system allows club safeguarding officers or the designated club administrator to manage all regulated roles.

Any Club who currently does not use the system are asked that they contact Steve Coulthard who will provide access. S.Coulthard@yorkshirecb.com

As a reminder, the table below lists all roles which require an ECB Enhanced DBS check as well as requiring the role holders to complete ECB SGL2 e-Learning training.

It is the responsibility of your Club Safeguarding officer to update and monitor SHMS to ensure your club remains compliant.

Role	Required Training	Additional Requirements	Certification Renewal
Club Safeguarding Officer	ECB SGL2 e-Learning	SGL3 (face to face) Safehands Course Valid enhanced ECB DBS check	Every 3 years
Coaches Activators Team Managers Junior Supervisors Captains Vice Captains Umpires	ECB SGL2 e-Learning	Valid enhanced ECB DBS check	Every 3 years
Scorers	ECB SGL2 e-Learning	No DBS check required	Every 3 years

Club Safeguarding Officer meetings

As your League safeguarding officer, I am considering holding a pre-season club safeguarding officer meeting and will be sending out an email to all clubs to gauge interest.

The aim of the meeting will be to talk about the LSO and CSO roles, share experiences, ask questions and generally get to know each other.

Thank you for reading

Any questions please do let me know.

Jackie