

APPENDIX

ECB DIRECTIVES

All the following ECB directives must be enforced in all matches organised by the Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League. Age group qualifications to be based on the age of the player as at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.

a) FAST BOWLING MATCH DIRECTIVES

For the purpose of these directives, a fast bowler should be defined as a bowler to whom a wicketkeeper, in the same age group, would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball.

Age Group.	Max overs per spell	Max. overs per day
Up to 13	5	10
U14, U15	6	12
U16, U17, U18, U19	7	18

b) CLOSE FIELDING REGULATIONS

The following are minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

No young player in the **Under 15 age group or younger** shall be allowed to field closer than **8 yards** (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.

For players in the **Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards** (10 metres). These minimum distances apply even if the players is wearing a helmet.

Whilst it is the Captain's responsibility to apply these regulations, should a young player come within the restricted distances the Umpires must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.

In addition any young player in the **Under 16 to 18 age group who has not reached the age of 18 must wear a helmet, and for boys an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards** (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Young players should also wear protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position at which they feel at risk.

c) SAFETY GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF CRICKET HELMETS BY YOUNG PLAYERS UP TO THE AGE OF 18

Helmets with a faceguard or grill should be worn when batting against a hard ball in both matches and practice sessions.

Young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector.

Young wicketkeepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector when standing up to the stumps.

British Safety Standard: The latest British Safety Standard is BS7928:2013 (for both adults and juniors). The full list of helmets meeting this standard is available at www.ecb.co.uk/helmets. For wicket-keeping face protectors the relevant British Safety Standard is BS7929-2:2009 (again, for both adults and juniors).

Parental consent not to wear a helmet must not be accepted in any form of cricket.

ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Group Cricket

The ECB has issued guidance covering the selection and participation of young players in open age group cricket. This is to help clubs decide when to select young players in open age group cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. The guidance applies to boys and girls. The ECB keeps these guidelines under review and, following feedback from clubs and leagues, has revised these guidelines for the 2014 season. The ECB will continue to monitor the impact of these guidelines and you are invited to feedback your thoughts and comments in writing to the ECB Non-First Class Cricket Department.

The guidance is as follows:

General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
- Clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level – however, the minimum age guidance provided below must be adhered to.
- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
- Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else.
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
- Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement
- The captain should inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side.

Cricket specific safeguarding guidance:

Restrictions:

ECB Helmets, Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in Open age group cricket.

Minimum age to play (or act as a substitute*)

Players who are selected in a County U12 squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'district level' for that season are eligible to play Open age cricket.

This is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play. In allowing these players to play in open age cricket it is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards these young players.

This means boys and girls who are county squad and area squad players, are able to play open age group cricket if they are in an U12 age group and are a minimum of 11 years old on 1st September of the year preceding the season.

District and club players who are not in a county or area squad must wait until they reach the U13 age group, be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year before being able to play in any open age group cricket. As before written parental consent is required for these players.

The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- 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.

In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket. Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.

*HCL Ruling