

Safeguarding Newsletter June 2024

Update from the Cricket Regulator

The Cricket Regulator established in December 2023 is ring-fenced from the ECB. The Cricket Regulator reports to the Regulatory Board, which is independent of the ECB. The Cricket Regulator seeks to bring further independence to the regulatory processes within cricket, to give greater assurance around the separation between this area and the remainder of the ECB, to avoid the perception of a conflict of interest for the ECB as both the game's regulator and promoter. The Safeguarding Team work with colleagues from across the ECB, Sport England and third parties to ensure it reflects changes in practice and sets standards supported by externally challenged thinking.

Currently the team are in the process of updating guidance which reflects the changes to branding from the ECB to the Cricket Regulator. It is felt that changes to branding on documents will be phased and the use of the current Safe Hands branding will continue due to its consistency across systems, policy and in the recreational cricket environment.

We will continue to update the network on any changes which come about as the Cricket Regulator develops its practices in supporting the delivery of the game.

There is a new website which has been established, [click here](#) to see.

Please note all guidance is also still hosted on the ECB website

Changes to WhatsApp - reduced age limit to 13.

Sadly, we have no control over the recent change in age limit within WhatsApp being reduced to 13. It is a very disappointing move by META to reduce the age limit.

However, this does mean that the safeguarding precautions / standards that we set remain firm, and we should all be extra vigilant and ensure the guidance is clear that no contact occurs directly between an adult and a child on this or any other social media platform.

Please see this [useful guide](#) for Parents/Carers with more information.

Please remember that Club WhatsApp groups that contain U18s must include their parents within the same WhatsApp group.

Cricket Regulator Inbox & IT System Reminders

A reminder that the Cricket Regulator inbox is to be used for referrals and urgent matters only.

All safeguarding advice, support, follow ups, changes to attendance etc, should be done directly through your County Safeguarding Officer.

It is crucial that we keep the main inbox clear, so the serious issues are dealt with promptly and efficiently. Here are the useful contact emails for other queries you may have:-

- Link to ECB Customer Support Help Centre - [ECB Zendesk](#)
- DBS Team - dbs@ecb.co.uk
- Safe Hands helpdesk – safehands@ecb.co.uk
- E-Learning – elearning@ecb.co.uk
- Coaching System Support / CRM - coach.education@ecb.co.uk
- Data concerns - privacy@ecb.co.uk

Live Streaming Guidance

Please note that the guidance on photo, video and live streaming is in the process of being amended to reflect our safeguarding policies. The main change for you to be aware of is the increase in age from 16 years to 18 years. Consent to live streaming is required from a parent/carer of any player U18 (as opposed to U16 as per previous guidance.)

An updated version of the full policy will be available in the Safeguarding Kit Bag shortly.

DBS Update

We have added the role of Event Safeguarding Officer to the DBS system. This option is available to choose for any staff or volunteers responding to or managing safeguarding concerns on event days at your venues. We are delighted that counties have or are considering recruitment for this role to support safeguarding across your organisations.

As we recently communicated, a recent review of the information held by our DBS service provider has highlighted a number of individuals who failed to sign up to the update service, once receiving their DBS check in 2023. These individuals may believe they have a valid ECB DBS, but this means their DBS expired after 1 year. With this in mind and wishing to work pro-actively we have taken the decision to contact those individuals who are affected, whose DBS status recently expired in 2024 (Jan-April). We hope by proactively contacting those individuals, we can ensure the right message is received by those affected and that the correct course of action is taken, if required.

We will be communicating with these individuals to direct them to contact their Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) if they are still in regulated activity, so a new DBS application can be initiated. There is no specific action required of County Boards however we are mindful that once individuals receive this communication and contact their Club Safeguarding Officer, there may be some support for CSO's required where appropriate.

DBS reminder for Overseas Players - Any overseas player needs to complete a [Non-UK-Resident-Vetting-Form-2024.pdf](#)

Applicants who live abroad and are visiting the UK for the cricket season to play, coach or to attend a course are not eligible for our online Enhanced DBS checks.

They should instead apply using the Non-UK vetting form. Alongside the application form the applicant needs to send a scanned copy of their visa (if applicable), an overseas police check (covering their time abroad and dated no more than 3 months prior to arrival in the UK) and a copy of their passport.

A Non-UK resident will not receive a certificate, but instead will receive email confirmation of the clearance to work with children for the season. If they are already in the UK they need to be assistant coaching/rule of two until clearance is given.

Case Management Investigation / Threshold Update

The Case Management Team have had a busy start to the year and would like to extend thanks to you for supporting the network to recognise and raise safeguarding concerns.

The standard of reporting is continuing to improve as is the communication between yourselves and the team.

There has been a steady increase in threshold referrals since 2022. We see this increase as a positive and it demonstrates the impact of the work being undertaken by yourselves across your counties. Thank you for your continued proactive work which is having a positive effect on making the game a safer place.

Safeguarding for Specialist Roles

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, so whatever your role in cricket, everyone should understand the importance of keeping children, young people and adults safe.

If you are a Club Safeguarding Officer, Coach, Activator, Official (umpire, Scorer), Committee Member, Captain or a parent there is a course available for you.

As a reminder Safeguarding for Specialist Multiple Roles has now replaced Safeguarding Young Cricketers. To complete the course all learners should complete the main module, titled Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (80%) and one of the bolt on modules (20%) relevant to their role.

For information about all of the new ECB Safeguarding modules and how to book, please click [Safeguarding Courses \(bucksicricket.co.uk\)](https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/share-a-concern)

Contact the safeguarding team: safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk

Safeguarding Referral Form:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/share-a-concern>

Bucks Cricket Safeguarding Officer: safeguarding@bucksicricket.co.uk