

Safeguarding Newsletter: October

Welcome to the October edition of the Safeguarding Newsletter, we hope you find the information and updates useful in your role in supporting the delivery of safer environments across the game.

Cricket Regulator Update

Here is a snapshot of the new Safeguarding Strategy alongside the ECB Inspiring Generations update. Cricket Regulator will focus the game on -

- Leading the way in creating safer cultures across the game, by working with Bucks Cricket on our offer to the recreational clubs and leagues network.
- Support and provide a platform for the views of survivors, to be heard and acted upon ensuring lessons continue to be learnt where possible.
- Focus on fostering positive behaviours across the game including consistently challenging behaviour which falls below expected standards.
- Develop cross sport safeguarding campaigns, focussing on raising awareness and supporting safer cultures within sport.

The Safeguarding Strategy will be launched later this year, enabling the game to be the most inclusive team sport by creating the safest possible environment.

Mental Health Section

WeCare

Club Safeguarding Officers can now access medical, mental health and well-being support through Canada Life WeCare. This is an excellent, free and entirely confidential support scheme that the ECB are providing for the Club and County Safeguarding Officer network. The provision will also be available for immediate family members. Please contact me for further information and access.

Mental Health First Aid

Our Mental Health is important to us all. Bucks Cricket have created a [Mental Health First-Aid webpage](#) and many of the Bucks Cricket coaches and support staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid. If you have any questions or require help Emma or I can be contacted.

Mental Health First Aid plan can follow these four simple steps: **C A R E**

- C**heck for significant suicide risk or harm
- A**pply non-judgemental communication skills
- R**eassure and Provide information
- E**ncourage professional support

Club Safeguarding Administration Section

New Club Safeguarding Posters

Following your feedback The cricket regulator have developed some further posters for Club Safeguarding Officers.

1 new version features 2 spaces for Club SO details so you can add more than 1 person. Download [here](#).

The other new version features a space for a club logo to be added. Download [here](#).

Safe Hands Management System

The Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) is an online Club Management Tool introduced in 2021 to support clubs in proactively managing safeguarding. All of our clubs have now been invited to onboard onto the SHMS with many of our clubs proactively using the system to manage their safeguarding provision. The ECB are continuing to review the existing compliance rules to ensure that they remain fit-for-purpose in allowing clubs to demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding in the recreational game. For now, we would advise clubs do the following:

- Ensure all data on the SHMS is up to date prior to the start of the 2025 season and that your club portal is an accurate reflection of your volunteer workforce.
- Initiate any required ECB DBS checks
- Update & complete all sections on the portal that are relevant to your club even if this means you are not able to meet all requirements to achieve club compliance

If clubs are required to reach a state of club compliance for a specific purpose (e.g. Clubmark accreditation) then we will review this on a club-by-club basis. A 'Ten steps to success with the SHMS' guide can be found here. If there are any tasks to be completed that you need support with, visit the SHMS Help Centre <https://safehands.zendesk.com/hc/en-us>

Please remember that to affiliate to Bucks Cricket you must use your club's SHMS and have a qualified Club safeguarding officer and those doing regulated roles entered onto the system. To play cricket in most leagues, clubs must be affiliated to a county cricket board. Therefore, if your club is not compliant within your SHMS, you may not be playing league cricket in 2025!

DBS Renewal Process – October 2024 update: Changes to the DBS renewal process were introduced in January 2023. To remind yourselves of this process, please click [DBS renewal/update process](#)

Low-level concerns

Low-level concerns, sometimes called poor practice, are small incidents that breach code of conducts or behaviour that falls below what is required by Bucks Cricket and the ECB.

Bucks Cricket encourages clubs to challenge all concerns, including those thought of as low-level, to discourage any further incidents/rule breaking or escalating poor behaviour from taking place. When lower-level concerns are left unchallenged it creates the environment for more serious rule breaks and even abuse to occur. We would appreciate your support in notifying us of any incidents that arise like this at your club or matches so that we can record these going forward by emailing the details to safeguarding@bucks cricket.co.uk

Your County Safeguarding Officer– sometimes with the ECB safeguarding case management team’s support– may decide that a concern constitutes a low-level concern and is on hand to support you and your club to manage these concerns.

Low-level concerns may require investigation or subsequent management at a local level through the County or Club Safeguarding officer. Persistent poor practice, or investigations that reveal serious concerns will be referred to the ECB national safeguarding team who will make a decision about further action. This will usually include consultation with – or referral to – statutory agencies.

- [Safeguarding Referral Form](#)

Question: Do you have a low-level concerns log at your club? If so, please send you LLC log or respond you do not, to safeguarding@bucks cricket.co.uk Thank you.

Safeguard Training Section

ECB Safe Hands Workshops

Location: Wargrave Cricket Club

Date/Time: Monday 14th October 2024

Booking link: [SafeHands - Wargrave - BCF - Oct 2024](#)

Location: High Wycombe Cricket Club

Date/Time: Tuesday 15th October 18:30 - 21:30

Booking Link <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/WV89IZ>

Location: Tiddington CC

Date/time: 29th October 2024 18:30-21:30.

Booking Link: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/2QmGr0>

Venue: Surrey County Cricket Centre - Guildford, Surrey GU1 1XX

Date & Time: Wednesday 27th November 2024 - 6.30-9.30

Booking link: [Safeguarding Officers - Surrey Cricket Foundation](#)

Introduction to Safeguarding for club members

This free course provides basic knowledge and advice in creating a safe cricket environment for everyone, recognising signs of abuse, what to do if you have any concerns or if you are approached by anyone with concerns. It takes about 30 minutes and is accessible via mobile, tablet or laptop.

Who is the training for? Anyone, including parents, players, ground staff, bar staff, children etc. Please note, coaches and Club Safeguarding Officers may choose to complete this course but are **required** to complete SSR below.

How long is it valid for. It is recommended safeguarding training is undertaken at least every 3 years and you can complete it sooner if you require a refresher.

How do I access the training? Via the ECB website – [Safeguarding Induction \(ecb.co.uk\)](#)

Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (SSR)

This free training is designed to support individuals in cricket who have specialist roles working with children and young people. The training is aimed at Coaches, Activators, Captains, Team Managers, Umpires, Scorers, Committee Members and Club Safeguarding Officers, but we encourage anyone who wants to, to complete it. It is made up of one 60-minute module, suitable for all roles with children, and four shorter bolt-on modules of about 20 minutes and is valid for 3 years.

If you have an ECB e-learning account (this primarily applies to coaches) [log in](#), and complete the Safeguarding for Specialist Roles course. If you haven't completed a safeguarding course before, or if the module is not available when you log into your e-learning account, please register for the course below. Please choose the most appropriate course; Club Safeguarding Officers must choose the 'Committee Members and Club Safeguarding Officers' option. You must complete all of the course for it to register as completed and download the certificate

- [Safeguarding for Coaches and Activators](#)
- [Safeguarding for Captains and Team Managers](#)
- [Safeguarding for Umpires and Scorers](#)
- [Safeguarding for Committee Members and Club Safeguarding Officers](#)