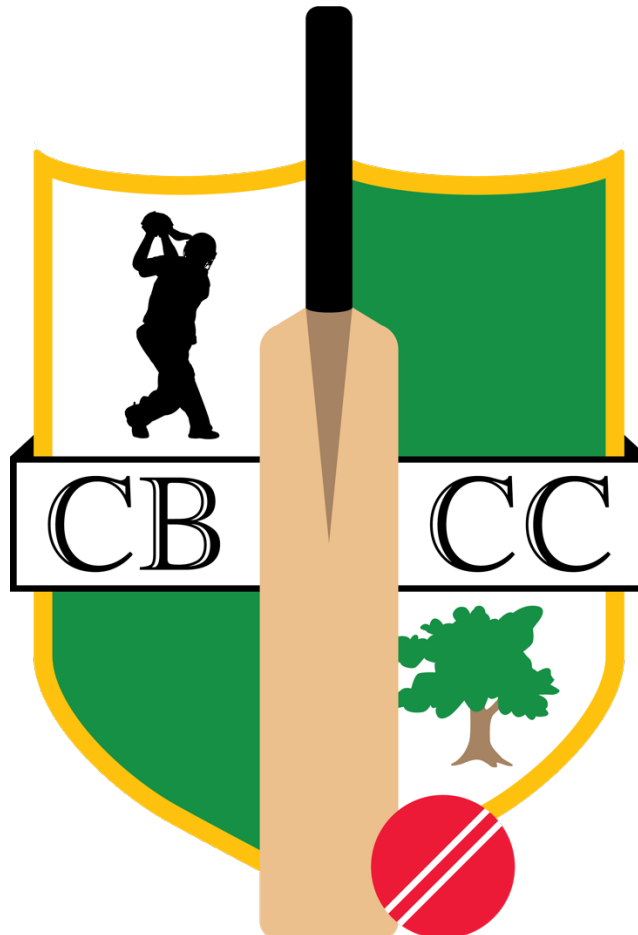


# Chesham Bois Cricket Club



## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

REVISED AND ADOPTED  
SEPTEMBER 2020

## INCLUDING GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS IN OPEN AGE CRICKET

### Club Statement:

All children and vulnerable adults have the right to be protected from harm. Chesham Bois Cricket Club has a duty of care to safeguard all children and vulnerable adults involved in the Club from harm. All children and vulnerable adults have a right to protection, and the needs of disabled children and others who may be particularly vulnerable must be taken into account. The Club will ensure a duty of care to all members of the Club by adopting and implementing the ECB Safe Hands, Welfare of Young People in Cricket policy, and any future versions of the policy. A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 (The Children Act 1989)

### Club Aims

The aim of the Club's Safeguarding Policy is to promote good practice:

- providing children, young people and vulnerable adults with appropriate and reasonable safety and protection whilst in the care of the Club;
- allow all members/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific child protection issues.

### Promoting good practice

Abuse can occur within many situations including the home, school and the sporting environment. A coach, official or Club member will have regular contact with young people and vulnerable adults and be an important link in identifying cases where they need protection. All suspicious cases of poor practice shall be reported following the guidelines in this document.

All personnel shall be encouraged to demonstrate exemplary behaviour in order to protect themselves from false allegations, such as the following common sense examples of how to create a positive culture and climate:

- always work in an open environment (e.g. avoiding private or unobserved situations and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- treating all people equally, and with respect and dignity
- always putting the welfare of each person first, before winning and achieving goals
- maintaining a safe and appropriate distance from players
- building balanced relationships based on mutual trust which empowers children and vulnerable adults to share in the decision-making process
- making cricket fun, enjoyable and promoting fair play
- keeping up to date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport
- involving Parents/Guardians where possible.

Where groups have to be supervised in changing rooms, always ensure parents, teachers, coaches or officials work in pairs

- give enthusiastic and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- securing parental consent in writing to act in loco parentis, if the need arises to administer emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment

- keep a written record of any injury that occurs, together with the details of any treatment given
- requesting written parental consent if Club officials are required to transport young people in their vehicles.

#### Practices to be avoided

The following shall be avoided except in emergencies. If cases arise where these situations are unavoidable it shall be with the full knowledge and consent of someone in charge in the Club or the child's Parents/Guardians. (For example, a child sustaining an injury and needing to go to hospital, or a Parent/Guardian failing to arrive to pick up a child at the end of a session):

- avoid spending excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- avoid taking and dropping off a child to an event

The following shall never be sanctioned.

- engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- make sexually suggestive or sexually abusive comments to a child, even in fun
- reduce a child to tears as a form of control
- allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or not acted upon
- do things of a personal nature for children that they can do for themselves
- invite or allow children or/and vulnerable adults to stay with you at your home unsupervised.

#### Incidents that shall be reported/recorded

If any of the following occur you shall report this immediately to another colleague and record the incident and ensure the Parents/Guardians of the child are informed:

- if you accidentally hurt a player
- if he/she seems distressed in any manner
- if a player appears to be sexually aroused by your actions
- if a player misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done

#### Use of photographic/filming equipment at cricket matches, practice sessions and Club social events

Club members shall be vigilant and report any concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.

Whilst there is no intention to prevent Club coaches using video equipment as a legitimate coaching aid, players and Parents/Guardians should be made aware that this is part of the coaching programme and such films should be stored safely.

Young players shall be included in team photographs and photographs and videos of presentations and other social events unless this is expressly forbidden by their Parents/Guardians.

#### Recruitment and training of coaches and other Club members in direct contact with young people

The Club recognises that anyone may have the potential to abuse children in some way and takes all reasonable steps to ensure unsuitable people are prevented from working with children. The Club Welfare Officer (CWO) shall be a member of the Club Management Committee. All coaches, umpires and Club members involved with a 'colts' section will be required to complete a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

form and make available their subsequent CRB reference number to the CWO. Other Club members shall be encouraged to complete a self-declaration form. All coaching staff are required to attend a recognised good practice and child protection awareness training workshop and to attend update training when necessary.

#### Responding to allegations or suspicions

It shall not be the responsibility of any Club member to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place. However, there shall be a responsibility to act on any concerns through contact with the appropriate authorities. The Club shall ensure all members that it will fully support and protect anyone, who in good faith reports his or her concern that a colleague is, or may be, abusing a child. Initially, all concerns should be addressed to the CWO or, in his absence, to his/her designated deputy. Any issues shall then be referred by the CWO to the Welfare Officer at the Bucks County Cricket Board. Subsequent action or investigation should take place from there.

#### Confidentiality

Every effort shall be made to ensure that confidentiality is maintained for all concerned. Information shall be handled and disseminated on a need to know basis only. This shall include the following as considered appropriate by the Club:

- the CWO
- the Parents/Guardians of the person who is alleged to have been abused
- the person making the allegation
- social services/police
- the Bucks County Cricket Board Welfare Office and England & Wales Cricket Board Child Protection Officer
- the alleged abuser (and Parents/Guardians if the alleged is a child)

In cases of alleged abuse, it shall not be the responsibility of the Club to approach the alleged abuser directly. If following consideration, the allegation is clearly about poor practice, the CWO may deal with it as a misconduct issue in accordance with the Club disciplinary procedures.

#### Information required about suspected abuse

To ensure that this information is as helpful as possible, a detailed record shall always be made at the time of the disclosure/concern, which shall include the following:

- the child's name, age and date of birth
- the child's home address and telephone number
- whether or not the person making the report is expressing their own concerns or those of someone else
- the nature of the allegation.

Include dates, times, any special factors and other relevant information

- make a clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay
- a description of any visible bruising or other injuries, also any indirect signs, such as behavioural changes
- details of witnesses to the incidents
- the child's or vulnerable adult's account, if it can be given, of what has happened and how bruising or other injuries occurred

- ascertain whether or not the Parents/Guardians have been contacted.
- If so, what has been said?
- If the child was not the person who reported the incident ascertain if the child been spoken to and if so, what has been said.
- ascertain if anyone has been alleged to be the abuser and if so record details

## APPENDIX A

### JUNIOR PLAYERS IN OPEN AGE CRICKET

CBCC Policy adopted from 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.

Put simply, the overall aim is to allow young players to develop in safety, but not to spoil the game for adults. For the avoidance of doubt, this guidance applies to training and nets as well as games.

The guidance is as follows:

#### General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is an important event in any player's cricket experience. The player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience must be considered
- Clubs, squad coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case must be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in Open Age cricket

The minimum age guidance provided below **MUST** be followed.

- 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 must inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side.

#### Restrictions

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

#### Minimum age

The minimum age for Open Age cricket is the U 13 age group. Players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old on the 1st September of the preceding year. This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or area squad. 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 also 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. It is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards young players in Open Age cricket. Written parental consent is required.

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.