

JUNIOR RULES - SECTION SIX SAFEGUARDING

What has Safeguarding got to do with us? We just want to play cricket!

This is something I hear from time to time, and it does disappoint me.

Given what has been happening in football recently, with players coming forward to say that they were abused as children, I am certain everyone in sport understands the need to make sure children are safe in their sport.

This means making sure we follow the guidance the ECB gives us, and especially it means making sure we carry out the basic checks on people who will have a responsibility towards children in cricket.

The ECB website provides the following information:

The England and Wales Cricket Board is firmly committed to creating a safe and enjoyable environment for children to enjoy the game.

Key to this is the recruitment and vetting of the many invaluable individuals who create many rewarding experiences in cricket.

All organisations working with children have safeguarding responsibilities and clear requirements placed upon them by legislation and guidance.

This applies whether you are a club, league panel or another organisation. It is there to ensure safe recruitment practices for individuals who work with children, including policies on when to obtain a criminal records check.

The ECB guidance on the roles in cricket that require a vetting check are available on the ECB website:

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/safeguarding/dbs-checks-ecb-vetting>

The roles in cricket that require ECB vetting are:

- Welfare Officer (Club, League, County)
- Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Coach (volunteer or paid, assistant or lead)
- Umpire
- Scorer
- Colt/Junior Manager
- Age Group Manager
- Open-Age Team Captain
- Junior Supervisor
- First Aider/Physiotherapist/Medical Support

To obtain a DBS application form or if you have any queries regarding your application, please contact GB Group on 0845 251 3000

Or you can contact me.

There really is no excuse for us not to do what we need to do.

We know there are people who have unhealthy reasons for wanting to be around children. We know there are a number of people in Cheshire who have been banned or suspended from working with children. Some of these have served prison sentences for offences against children. One individual is currently serving 15 years.

Our children and young people need us to make sure our game is as safe as it can be. Parents are now advised by Government to ask if people at Sports Clubs are vetted, and we should be able to say – hand on heart – that everyone is vetted who needs to be. It's easy to do – let's do it.

Let's make this the year where all vetting checks are completed before the start of the season, and really show that we value the safety of the children and young people who take part in cricket in our County.