



Safeguarding Information for Captains of Open Age Cricket Teams **2025 Season**

From Nick May, County Safeguarding Officer for Sussex Cricket
nick.may@sussexcricket.co.uk | Tel: 07463 225701

You will no doubt be confident about your role as Team Captain in the actual game of cricket, but you also need to be aware of your safeguarding responsibilities as a captain.

You have a duty of care, on behalf of your club, for the well-being of all under 18s in your and the opposition's team.















You must have a current ECB DBS. The captain's role comes under 'regulated activity' in law. If you don't have one, ask your Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) to start the process for you, it's free for volunteers.

Clubs rely on the development of younger players, and you can play an important part in this transition; the experiences they have on the cricket field when aged 13 or 14 could develop their lifelong interest and love of the game – *or put them off completely.*

Whilst it is appreciated these younger players (aged between 13 & 17) often want to be treated as adults, if they do not receive the right sort of understanding, encouragement and support, many of them will leave the game. Please play your part.

Sussex Cricket and the ECB actively encourages the development of these young players and to help you, it is important you follow the guidance set out in [ECB Safe Hands](#), which is Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children.

Things you must DO!

-  **Remember that anyone under 18 is a child in the eyes of the law.**
-  Take your safeguarding responsibilities seriously.
-  Make sure you know who your **Club Safeguarding Officer** is, and how to contact them.
-  **Report any concerns** or worries you have about a child, to your Club Safeguarding Officer.
-  **Inform the Umpire about all Under 18s in your team.**
-  Ensure you have the **emergency contact details** for any Under 18s in your team. Importantly, are there any medical conditions or allergies you need to be aware of? (The Club Safeguarding Officer or Secretary should supply you with this information, which should be treated as confidential)
-  **Create a welcoming atmosphere** and ensure you think about how to integrate all Under 18 players into your team.
-  Set an example through your own conduct. Ensure your club **Code of Conduct** is followed. Encourage good sportsmanship, recognising good play both in your team and the opposition and recognise good performances and efforts of young people, not just match results.
-  **Provide an opportunity for young players to show their talents in an appropriate way** – children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
-  Treat everyone equally and do not discriminate on the grounds of age, gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, nationality, colour, parental or marital status, religious belief, class or social background, sexual preference or political belief.
-  **Challenge any form of bullying!**
-  Ensure you are aware of the **transport policy** in your club – ECB guidance is that all Under 18s/their parents are responsible for arranging their own transport to and from matches– the Club/captain should not be arranging the transport
-  Ensure you are aware of the **changing room policy** in your club regarding Under 18s. Children should change separately from adults.
-  Be aware that if Under 18s have to share a changing room with over 18s, you must ensure an appropriate plan is in place, so they are not changing and/or showering at the same time.

- 🦉 Ensure you are aware of your club's **policy for mobile phones in changing rooms**: ECB guidance is that no mobile phones are allowed to be used in the changing rooms for any purpose. This is because photos and videos can be taken and go viral in seconds or be used for other purposes that would cause safeguarding concerns. This means phones should not be used at all in changing rooms.
- 🦉 Ensure you are aware of all **ECB Guidelines for Juniors Playing in Open Age Cricket** (such as wearing of helmets, fast bowling regulations). [ECB Safeguarding Kit Bag Resources](#)

Things you must NOT DO!

- 🦉 **Engage in any form of sexually related contact** with an Under 18 player including sexual innuendo, flirting or inappropriate gestures and terms.
- 🦉 Allow players under 18 in your care to drink alcohol.
- 🦉 **Communicate by any form of social media or phone with anyone under the age of 18 in your club.** Your Club may decide Captains can communicate with over 16s about team selection. If so – ALWAYS copy the parents in, and ensure the messages only relate to team selection and team matters. This is to safeguard you as well as the child.
- 🦉 **Tolerate bullying or swearing at young players** (or indeed any players) or any behaviour they might find intimidating.

Any concerns you have should be reported to your Club Safeguarding Officer.

If you cannot contact them, you can contact the **Sussex Cricket Safeguarding Officer, Nick May** on **07463 225701** or nick.may@sussexcricket.co.uk

Your Club, Sussex Cricket and the ECB are here to support you, if you have a concern relating to children, then support is available to you – please ask for it.

Many thanks and have a great season!

Nick May
County Safeguarding Officer

When in doubt or in need of guidance, call Nick May, the County Safeguarding Officer:

Mobile: 07463 225701

Email: nick.may@sussexcricket.co.uk or safeguarding@sussexcricket.co.uk

Other Reporting Options:

ECB Safeguarding Team: 020 7432 1200 or safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk

NSPCC: on 0808 800 5000

Childline: on 0800 11110 or by post; Childline Post Freepost 1111 London N1 OBR

