



Information pack for Managers, Coaches and Captains

The committee of Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club would like to thank you for your help for the upcoming season. We appreciate you giving your time to support the club and are here to support you in any way we can.

Useful Contacts:

Chairman	Michael Bowman	mpbowman74@gmail.com
Vice Chairman	Ian Prentice	i.prentice@btconnect.com
Treasure	John Stovell	johnstovell@hotmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Dawn Bowman	dawn_bowman@outlook.com
Club Secretary	Sue Froggett	susan.froggett@sky.com
Colts Managers	Andy Grave	andygrave@hotmail.com
Ground Fixtures	Steve Chiverton	stevechiv15@gmail.com

Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club is committed to continuing to provide an environment where children are welcomed, feel safe and have their views and feelings taken into consideration. This guidance is for all captains, coaches, managers and volunteers working with children in cricket.

In 2022, we were re-awarded Club Mark. Club Mark is the English Cricket Board(ECB) scheme for cricket clubs which shows that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members.

Clubmark accreditation also means your club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as assuring parents and carers that they are choosing the right option for their young people.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with the club's policies which may have been reviewed this year. Club policies can be found at:

<https://www.hythe-dibdencricketclub.co.uk/welfare-son>

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with Dawn.

When working with children good practice means:

- Welcoming all children and parents/guardians to the club
- Being friendly and professional
- Ensuring cricket is fun and enjoyable, and that fair play is promoted
- Treating all children equally, with respect and dignity
- Being an excellent role model at all times– this includes not smoking or drinking alcohol during coaching and being mindful of behaviour around the club
- Always putting the welfare of children first, before winning or achieving goals by encouraging a constructive environment where healthy competition, skills, development, fun and achievement are promoted in equal measures
- Always working in an open environment (for example, avoiding being alone with a child, and encouraging open communication with no secrets)
- Having excellent interpersonal boundaries especially with social media, so children know how to behave and what is expected of them
- Being in line with Home Office guidelines which state, if you are in a position of trust and authority, you must not have sexual relationships with 16-17 year olds in your care
- Not tolerating acts of aggression
- Recognising the needs and abilities of children, avoiding too much training or competition and not pushing them against their will
- Giving positive and constructive feedback rather than negative criticism
- Encouraging children to assess their performance based on their own skills, knowledge and love of the game, rather than on whether they won or lost
- Working to the ECB guidance on physical contact, where children are always consulted and their agreement gained before any contact is made
- Keeping up-to-date with technical skills, qualifications and insurance in sport
- Ensuring if mixed sex teams are taken away, they are always accompanied by a male and female member of staff
- Ensuring while on tour, you do not enter a child's room or invite them into your room – except in an emergency i.e. when very unwell
- Finding out if any children you are coaching have medical conditions that could be aggravated during playing or training
- Keeping a written record any time a child is injured in your care, along with details of any treatment provided
- Promoting good sportsmanship by encouraging children to be considerate of other players, officials and club volunteers and by being modest in victory and gracious in defeat
- Helping the ECB to work toward eradicating harassment and abuse of children from cricket

When working with children poor practice means you must never:

- Taking photos or videos of a child unless for coaching purposes. If you do take a video, seek the permission of the child and only use the child's mobile phone.
- Spend excessive amounts of time alone with children away from others
- Take or drop off a child at an event
- Take children to your home or transport them by car, where they will be alone with you

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Share a room with a child
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching or physical abuse
- Take part in, or tolerate, behaviour that frightens, embarrasses or demoralises a cricketer or that affects their self esteem
- Allow children to use inappropriate language unchallenged
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a child or in front of a child, even in fun
- Make a child cry
- Allow allegations made by a child to go unchallenged, unrecorded or ignored
- Do things of a personal nature for children or vulnerable adults that they can do for themselves
- Shower with a child
- Have inappropriate contact with children –for example, by text or social media. Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club guidance is that any electronic or online communications should be via parents and carers

Any of these can make the environment feel less safe for children, and leave you open to allegations.

Practical guidance on physical contact

The following guidance is about safeguarding children as they learn to play cricket. It will also help to protect adults from unnecessary or malicious allegations when working with children.

Always conduct all junior sessions with at least one other adult present. Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club understand physical contact between a child and an adult may be required to instruct, encourage, protect or comfort. However, it is important to remember that in cricket today there is a multi-cultural mix of children from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, children with disabilities or special needs, and children who may have previously been or are currently being abused. Not all children are used to or are comfortable with any type of touching, be it friendly or otherwise. In many cultures girls in particular are uncomfortable about any kind of touching by a stranger. Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club promote 'high fives' as way of celebrating rather than hugging.

All adults must understand that touching not only involves touching children when showing them cricket postures, but can also include responsive or pleasant actions, for example, when asking the child to carry out a task, or celebrating a win. If any child is not comfortable with physical contact it should be made clear they can make their feelings known privately to the adult. Any contact should be led by the child and not the adult.

Physically or visually impaired children may need to be touched in order to help them understand, acquire or visualise a cricket posture. It must be remembered that the guidance detailed below still applies. In addition, adults must be appropriately dressed and professional when operating in a cricket environment with children.

Never touch a child inappropriately. As a responsible adult you should only use physical contact if its aim is to:

- Develop sports skills or techniques
- Treat an injury
- Prevent an injury or accident from occurring
- Meet the requirements of the sport but consider mirroring as a technique

You should seek to explain the reason for the physical contact to the child i.e. reinforcing the teaching or coaching skill. Unless the situation is an emergency, the adult should ask the child for permission. **Physical contact should always be intended to meet the child's needs NOT the adult's.**

- If a child becomes injured during a junior session and the injury requires the child to be carried to a place of treatment, always seek support from another adult before moving the child. Any first aid administered should be in the presence of another adult or in open view of others
- If the child seems uncomfortable in any way with the physical contact, stop immediately
- If the child you are working with is visually impaired, you should tell them who you are and ask their permission before you come into physical contact with them
- Never attempt to adjust the grip of a child when in the normal batting stance position
- Never find yourself in a situation where you are the only adult present around children, e.g. in changing rooms, showers, or on a minibus
- Never help children dress e.g. to put on pads, helmets, or clothing unless they request this and genuinely require assistance and parents are not available
- Never help children to put on an abdominal protector
- Never take on one to one coaching with a child unless another adult or parent is present
- If you need to communicate with a child for the purposes of organising junior cricket or passing on cricket information, use a parent's mobile telephone number.

If any of the following incidents take place or you observe them, you **MUST** report them to the Club Safeguarding Officer (Dawn Bowman Mobile: 07867556104 or dawn_bowman@outlookcom) and make a written note of the event using the Club Incident Reporting Form and inform parents where appropriate if:

- You accidentally hurt a child
- A child seems distressed in any manner
- A child acts in a sexually inappropriate manner
- A child misunderstands or misinterprets something you have done

Responding to disclosures, suspicions and allegations

There may be a number of reasons where an adult finds it necessary to report a concern including:

- In response to something a child has said
- In response to something they have seen
- In response to signs or suspicions of abuse
- In response to allegations made against a coach or volunteer
- In response to allegations made about a parent, carer or someone not working within cricket
- In response to bullying
- In response to a breach of code of conduct/poor practice
- Observation of inappropriate behaviour

Responding to a child who tells you about abuse

You need to:

- Stay calm; do not show disgust or disbelief
- Keep an open mind
- Do not dismiss the concern, make assumptions or judgements
- Listen carefully to what is said and take the child seriously. Let the child know that if what they tell you makes you at all concerned about them or someone else, you will have to pass the information on to someone who can help them
- Ask questions for clarification only and at all times avoid asking questions that suggest a particular answer
- Reassure the child they have done the right thing by telling you
- Tell them what you will do next and with whom the information will be shared
- Be very careful not to promise that you will keep the information to yourself.
- Record in writing what was said using the child's own words. Do this as soon as possible, using the club incident reporting form. Copies can be found on the colts notice board
- Avoid approaching any alleged abuser to discuss the concern. * BE AWARE that the child may use the word 'complaint' rather than allegation.
- Report the incident to the Club Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible

Recording the incident and confidentiality

Please contact the Club Safeguarding Officer as soon as it is possible to do so on to report the incident. Information will be gathered and shared with the county welfare officer. Please use the Club Incident Reporting Form wherever possible but if you don't have this to hand please capture the following information.

Information needs to include the following:

- Details of the child, for example, age/date of birth, address and gender
- Details of the facts of the allegation or observations
- A description of any visible bruising or other injuries
- The child's account, if it can be given, regarding what has happened and how
- Witnesses to the incident(s)
- The name, address and date of birth of any alleged offender
- Any times, dates or other relevant information
- A clear distinction between what is fact, opinion or hearsay
- A signature, date and time on the report

Useful safeguarding Contacts:

Team	Name	Contact Details
Club Safeguarding Officer	Dawn Bowman	Tel: 07867556104 Email: dawn_bowman@outlook.com
County Welfare Officer	John Cook	Tel: 07766838779 Email: john.cook@ageasbowl.com
ECB Safeguarding Team	ECB Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ	Tel: 020 7432 1200 Email: safeguarding@ecb.co.uk