



Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club

Guidance for Junior Cricketers playing in Adult Matches

Introduction:

The ECB has issued the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This guidance applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year proceeding the current season.

Young cricketers are not eligible to play Open Age Cricket until they are 12 years old. Prior to playing in an open age cricket game the parent must provide written consent to allow this to occur. This is included in the colts membership form.

Guidance:

Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to Leagues that allow the participation of young players in adult teams in their League. The duty of care should be interpreted in three 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.
- Under 18's will not umpire in any league matches.

In addition the following specific requirements apply to young players in adult matches:

- All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when keeping wicket. Parental consent not to wear a helmet is not accepted in adult matches. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player he is running for is not doing so.
- The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captain. The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a young player comes within the restricted distance.
- The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in an adult match who are in the Under 19 age group or younger even if the player is not a fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder.

- The guidance related to changing and showering (see club policy) **must** be adhered to.
- Any club wishing to play a player in the Under 11 age group in an adult League or Cup match must obtain the explicit prior approval of the League or Cup management before the player can play. Approval should only be given to exceptionally talented players. It is recommended that advice is sought from the County Age Group Coach or other ECB Level 3 coach as appropriate.

Clubs and Leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in adult matches at their discretion.

It is mandatory that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a younger player plays in an adult match.

Considerations:

The decision to play Open Age Cricket should be a positive step in the child's development. Before allowing a child to take part in the open age format of the game, the parents/carers of the child should be satisfied that the appropriate measures have been taken by the Club to ensure a suitable and safe transition.

Good practice means:

- The player feels confident that they are ready to play in adult cricket.
- The Club is happy the player can play in adult cricket (in terms of skill and physical ability, and emotional confidence and maturity), and sees it as a positive step in that player's development.
- The Club has the appropriate DBS checked individuals to supervise the player.
- The player has been invited to training and/or is familiar with individuals in the team.
- The player is integrated into the team and the Club has the appropriate age-specific socialising environment created to ensure any junior players are included.
- The Club adheres to the ECB's Safe Hands Policy (for example around appropriate changing facilities, social media groups, transport to and from cricketing activities etc.).

Poor practice means:

- Ask the player to play when they are clearly not confident enough to do so.
- Put a young child in a position that involves an unreasonable physical or emotional risk to them.
- Simply ask a young player to play to make up the numbers. Isolate that player from certain aspects of the team (such as social events and decision making on the field)

The club must ensure that playing a Junior Cricketer in Open Age Cricket does not create a situation that places members of the opposing team in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they normally would do against adult players. Where a

Club considers that the playing of a Junior Cricketer in Open Age Cricket is leading to a situation of potential disparity where there is a concern regarding the safety or ability of a player (or players) to compete, the processes contained in the ECB's Disparity Regulations should be followed. This can be found on the ECB website

Fielding Regulations for colts playing adult games:

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

Age in years	Minimum Fielding Distance (from the striking batter)
9 or younger	11 yards (10 meters)
10 - 13	11 yards (10 meters)
14 - 15	8 yards (7.3 meters)
16 – 17	No minimum distance but if fielding within 8 yards (7.3 meters) in Hardball Cricket cricketers must comply with Regulation 4.2.3
18+	No minimum distance but if fielding within 8 yards (7.3 meters), in Hardball Cricket see ECB Recreational Cricket Safety Guidelines for safety recommendations

- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the under 16 to under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 meters) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the players at midnight on 31 August in the year proceeding the current season.

Bowling Directive for colts playing adult games:

The Fast Bowling Directives are designed to raise awareness of the need to nurture and protect our young fast bowlers through their formative years.

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would in normal circumstances stand back to take the ball.

Age in years	Max overs per Spell	Max overs per day
11 and below	4	8
12 & 13	5	10
14 & 15	5	12
16 & 17	6	15
18 & 19	7	18