

ECB GUIDELINES FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS

The ECB has had several recent requests to clarify the recently issued ECB guidelines on junior players in open age cricket. The intention of the merger of previous guidance documents was to clarify this area for clubs and leagues to assist them with planning and fulfilling fixtures.

For purposes of ECB communications a guideline is as it implies - guidance based upon considered advice and consultation. ECB as the National Governing Body (NGB) advises cricket clubs and leagues via County Boards of current best practice which may be relied upon by insurers to assess the relative responsibilities should a claim be made. In this case ECB as the NGB are advising that a legal duty of care towards children is incumbent on those designated as responsible adults in relation to those children.

As specified in the guidelines, all clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players aged under 18 who are representing the club. This duty of care also extends to leagues that allow the participation of young players in open age groups in their league. 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 that young players should have in open age cricket and thus clubs should 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.

The guidelines are designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age competitive cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups. For example:

*Players Under the age of 12 at midnight on 31st August 2009 (and younger) should not play in open age competitive cricket.

*Players Under the age of 13 at midnight on 31st August 2009 can play in open age group competitive cricket, (i.e. players aged 12 and over) if considered by a qualified Level 2 coach or above that it is appropriate for their development.

*Players Under 13 age at midnight on 31st August 2009 will need prior explicit written parental consent to play as this recognizes the need for parents or guardians to be aware of the significance of allowing their young child to participate in open age competitive cricket rather than purely junior cricket.

*Over 13 year old players are free to play open age cricket.

*Junior cricket age groups are set by the age of the player on the 31st August preceding the season of play, ie 31st Aug. 2009

Somerset Cricket League Rules for Junior Players

Rule 7. (e) Minimum age of players

Children who were under the age of 12 at August 31st of the previous year will **not** be permitted to play in the SCL during the current season. ie. Year 7 age group. *Note. This will allow those children who are in Year 8 or upwards in the senior/middle school in the current season to play in the SCL.* However, any player in the Under 13 age group – Year 8 (ie. under the age of 13 at August 31st of the previous year) must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in league cricket. Clubs must put consent procedures in place to ensure that a letter is obtained for players in this age group before they play their first game for the club.

(ON LETTERHEAD OF RELEVANT CRICKET CLUB)

PARENTAL CONSENT AND WAIVER FORM
(in respect of an under 13 playing Open Age club cricket)

I confirm that I am the parent/legal guardian* of#
(Print full name of child. #).

Hereafter referred to as “the Child”

The “Child” who is in the Under 13 age group which is defined by the player’s age at midnight on 31 August 2009.

I confirm “the Child’s” date of birth is:

I hereby give my unconditional consent to “the Child” playing in open age competitive cricket (“Open Age Cricket”) forCricket Club (the “Club”).

Hereafter referred to as “the Club”

I am fully aware and accept all the risks to “the Child” in playing Open Age Cricket for “the Club” and accept full, sole and unconditional responsibility for the health and safety of “the Child” as a result of him/her playing in Open Age Cricket, including but not limited to the risks to “the Child” of personal injury.

I, on behalf of “the Child”, hereby unconditionally waive, release and hold harmless “the Club”, the relevant league, the England and Wales Cricket Board (and all those parties’ respective officers, representatives and employees) and the relevant match day umpires from and against any and all causes of action, claims or other liabilities of any nature which in any way result from “the Child” playing Open Age Cricket for the “Club”.

Nothing herein is intended to limit liability for death or personal injury resulting from negligence.

Signed: Date:

Print Name:

* Delete as applicable