



Isle of Wight Cricket Board – Safeguarding Children Policy Statement

The Isle of Wight Cricket Board (IWCB) is fully committed to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of all children (under 18) who participate in cricket across the Island. This applies to all areas of our work, including the Talent Pathway, Women's and Girls Cricket, County Age Group (CAG) and Emerging Player Programme (EPP) Cricket, and all Community Cricket Programmes.

We believe every child involved in cricket should have a positive, safe, and enjoyable experience, and we are committed to creating an inclusive environment where they can thrive.

Our Commitment to Safeguarding

To ensure children are protected and supported throughout their cricket journey, we are committed to:

1. Putting the Right Safeguarding Measures in Place

- Recognising that all children, regardless of age, gender, race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or background, have the right to enjoy cricket in a safe and supportive environment, free from harm, abuse, or discrimination.
- Ensuring that everyone involved in cricket under the IWCB; whether staff, coaches, officials, or volunteers, provide a safe, welcoming and enjoyable experience for children.
- Creating a culture where the views of children, parents and volunteers are valued and actively sought. This helps ensure that concerns about suspected abuse, neglect, or poor practice can be raised safely and responded to appropriately.
- Adopting and fully implementing the ECB's "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children", which outlines the standards and expectations for safeguarding in cricket.
- Ensuring that all individuals working or volunteering within cricket, or on behalf of the IWCB are recruited in line with ECB guidelines and legal requirements, including vetting (DBS checks), safer recruitment practices, and safeguarding training.

2. Ensuring the Right People Are in Place

- Appointing a trained County Safeguarding Officer (CSO) who is responsible for leading safeguarding across the IWCB. They are required to complete all current and future training as specified by the ECB to carry out their role effectively.
- Supporting Club Safeguarding Officers and Area Safeguarding Officers by ensuring they also complete the necessary ECB approved training to build the knowledge and skills required to protect children in cricket.
- Making sure that everyone involved in cricket activities under the IWCB umbrella; staff, team managers, coaches, officials and volunteers, understands and adheres to the principles and expectations set out in the ECB Safe Hands policy.
- Providing appropriate training, resources, and support so individuals are aware of what good safeguarding practice looks like and can confidently follow relevant Codes of Conduct.



Role of the County Safeguarding Officer

The IWCB's County Safeguarding Officer (CSO) plays a central role in maintaining a safe cricket environment. They act as:

- The first point of contact for IWCB staff, volunteers, players, parents and guardians.
- A key contact for Club Safeguarding Officers.
- A source of guidance and procedural support for IWCB committees, members and affiliated clubs.
- The main link between the IWCB and the Cricket Regulator Team.
- The primary liaison with external safeguarding agencies, such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), children's services, and the police when necessary.

What To Do If You Have a Safeguarding Concern

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Whether you are a player, parent, coach or volunteer, it is important to act if you have a concern.

- **If someone is in immediate danger, call 999 and alert the police straight away.**
- If you witness or are made aware of a concern, report it to your Club Safeguarding Officer or the County Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
- You are not expected to investigate or decide if abuse has taken place, but you have a duty to report your concerns.
- When reporting concerns, follow the principle of Making Safeguarding Personal:
 - Where appropriate, consider the child's views on what they would like to happen next.
 - Be honest with the child that you may need to share what they've told you with someone else to keep them safe.
 - Keep the child informed about any actions taken and always act in their best interests.
- If in doubt, seek advice. It's always better to raise a concern than to stay silent.

Isle of Wight County Safeguarding Officer cs@isleofwightcricket.co.uk | 07598137872

Cricket Regulator safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk | 020 7432 1200

Isle of Wight Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) lado@private.iow.gov.uk

NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000 | [help@nspcc.org.uk](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

Date Completed – 10/01/2023

Completed By – Alex Barton

Last Updated – 06/10/2025

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