



SAFEGUARDING: CREATING A SAFER CULTURE FOR ALL

SAFEGUARDING CHECKLIST FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

Yes No

- Club Safeguarding Officer in place
- SHMS details updated
- Policies and Codes of Conduct shared
- Safeguarding training complete
- All club volunteers hold a valid ECB DBS

Welcome

Welcome to our pre-season Safeguarding Update for 2026 and thank you for taking the time to read our latest information. We hope it will help your club ensure that cricket takes place in a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment. Please share this document with your committee, coaches and wider members.

Clue: The new way to report concerns

The Cricket Regulator (CR) has changed the way that concerns can be raised with them. They are working with Clue, an online reporting and case management platform that will be used by the ECB and County Safeguarding Officers. Club Safeguarding Officers can report concerns directly to the CR by completing the Clue Webform, see link below. Alternatively, you can report concerns directly to the County Safeguarding Officer: cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk

We encourage you to report all concerns, including “Low-Level concerns”. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch to discuss any concerns you may have.

[Clue Webform](#)

[Safeguarding | Isle of Wight Cricket Board](#)

Safe Hands Courses for 2026

All Club Safeguarding Officers must hold a valid Safe Hands qualification (SGL3) which is to be renewed every 3 years. If yours has run out or is due to before the season starts, please sign up to one of the courses below. If you are stepping down, please could you pass these dates onto your committee Chair. You are welcome to, and we support, having more than one Club Safeguarding Officer at each club.

- **Wednesday 18th March**, 6:00pm – 9:00pm, Newclose County Cricket Ground
To register click [here](#).
- **Saturday 18th April**, 9:00am – 12:00pm, Newclose County Cricket Ground
To register click [here](#).

We would encourage anyone involved in your club to undertake the **Safeguarding Level 1** course, which is available online and takes approx. 30 minutes. To register click [here](#).

For coaches, officials, captains, team managers, chairs and committee members we would encourage you to complete the **Safeguarding Level 2** course, which is also available online. This is mandatory for Club Safeguarding Officers. To register click [here](#).

Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) – [Link to SHMS Club Portal](#)

The ECB has mandated that all recreational cricket clubs sign up and use the SHMS, which is a volunteer management system for recreational cricket clubs from the ECB. Not only will it keep you up to date with club compliance around DBS disclosures, but it also helps identify gaps early and prevent further risk. **Your club can also benefit from free Howdens insurance which would save the club hundreds of pounds.**

For clubs that are registered please could you have a full review of your account ahead of the season to be “match fit” by the 01 April 2026. Many of the current issues would be resolved quickly with some basic housework in removing people who are no longer captains/coaches.



It's important to review how you are currently using or not using SHMS as in 2027 club affiliation will be linked to SHMS, and if a club is not using the system effectively this may affect how a club can affiliate in the future.

Please see the 12 steps to success below to get started, alternatively contact your County Safeguarding Officer for support: cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk

12 steps to success

with the Safe Hands Management System (the SHMS)

Safe Hands

Need help with anything?

Please visit the helpdesk at safehands.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/categories/360001749298-Safe-hands

Getting started on the SHMS

| 1 | Have you contacted your local county board/foundation to request to be onboarded on to the SHMS? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Have you as a Club Administrator received your email invitation from the ECB and accepted your role? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Have you added all relevant officials for your club to trigger their invitation emails to be sent? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Have you checked your club information and made sure this is completed (e.g. address, postcode, telephone number, website etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Have you added the teams and programmes information for your club? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Have you completed your risk assessment to trigger your free ECB insurance cover? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Maintaining your club area on the SHMS

| 1 | Have you set a monthly reminder to access the system to check your club status? | YES <input type="checkbox"/> | NO <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 | Have you added any new volunteers as club officials to the system? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Have you checked that officials have accepted their role or re-sent the invitation? Please note that any invitations that have not been accepted will expire after 45 days. Reminders will be sent automatically after 7 days and 21 days. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Have you updated any roles or removed any club officials that no longer hold role(s) within your club? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Have you checked the DBS and qualification statuses for any current officials that may be expiring/have expired? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Have any required DBS checks been initiated by the club's ID Verifier? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Free insurance provision through Safe Hands Management System (SHMS)

To take up the ECB Insurance associated with SHMS, your club must complete a risk assessment for 2026.

1. First click on "View Club"
2. You must complete all the club information under the "Club Information" tab.
3. You need to input the data under the "Teams and Data" tab.
4. Then you need to add all your officials under the "Officials" tab.
5. You can then check the progress of "Compliance" under compliance in progress.
6. Once you have done this you need to click on "Venues and Insurance".
7. Add all venues that your club plays at including second grounds and any indoor facility you use regularly.
8. Then, to claim/apply for the insurance you need to complete a "New Risk Assessment".
9. Once you click on that button you will be taken to the Howdens Risk Assessment/Application page.
10. Complete the Howdens form in full to apply for the free insurance.

These steps must be complete to access the free insurance policy. For further information on the Club insurance cover click [here](#).

Club Self-Assessment Checklist

Please take a look at the [Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment](#) checklist from the ECB's "Safeguarding Kit Bag" which is a useful document for Club Safeguarding Officers to highlight good practice and areas for development for the whole club. Your club probably won't be 100% in every area, but it can help the committee to understand what needs to be done.

The [Safeguarding Training Matrix](#) is another useful reference document that clarifies which roles at your club require safeguarding training and who needs an ECB DBS check.

Remember if you are reviewing policies and procedures the ECB Safeguarding Kit Bag has some useful templates that you can use.

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/kit-bag-resources>

Codes of Conduct – Setting your club standard

This is a good time to start to review your codes of conduct and how you cascade these out to your club members. These codes make clear what respectful, responsible behaviour looks like and they support a positive experience for everyone involved and help prevent issues before they arise. This simple step strengthens your safeguarding practice from day one. There are links to templates for codes of conduct in the ECB's Safeguarding Kitbag, alternatively you can adopt or amend the IWCB's, which can be found on the website: <https://isleofwightcricket.co.uk/>

Please ensure that you have codes of conduct for:

- Participants
- Coaches & Club Officials
- Parents & Carers

Together, we can create an environment where participants feel safe, have fun and are supported.

Independent Safeguarding Review in Cricket

Sadly, abuse does occur within cricket. The ECB commissioned an independent safeguarding review following the conviction of Michael Strange, a recreational player and coach. He was both a club coach, and county pathway coach in the northeast of England. In total he has been convicted of 34 separate offences of indecent assault, rape and gross indecency of 10 pubescent boys within cricket. These crimes occurred between 1993 and 2004 and whilst we'd all like to think that safeguarding in sport has come a long way since then, we must never be complacent. There were numerous opportunities for people to raise concerns, but they didn't. Some of the boys feared being dropped from teams and believed he had great influence over county selection. Parents trusted him. Others witnessed poor practice but didn't challenge him.

Remember

- **If something doesn't seem right, speak up**
- **Report any incidents of poor practice**
- **It is NOT your responsibility to determine if abuse has occurred – but it IS your responsibility to report any concerns you may have.**

Opening Up Cricket Workshop – Mental Health Support



Anyone delivering coaching sessions isn't expected to be a mental health expert, but we all have a duty to support people in our sessions. Often small, everyday actions can make a big difference. To help promote mental wellbeing through cricket, the IWCB is offering to deliver Opening Up Cricket workshop to clubs to help promote positive environments to discuss mental health and signposting available resources. If you would like a workshop to be delivered to your club, please contact Sarah - cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk.

We Care – Wellbeing Support

And finally, just to remind you: WeCare – FREE Support for Safeguarding Officers in recognition of the hard work, you do, and knowing the role of a Club Safeguarding Officer can sometimes be challenging and demanding, the Cricket Regulator have partnered with Canada Life and are able to offer you free, confidential support. WeCare provides an extensive range of virtual services delivering holistic support if you need medical, legal, well-being support or 24/7 access to a GP. Your immediate family members can also use this service. To access this support, please get in touch using the CSO email address and we will provide you with the access code and will not ask for any other details.

Thank you once again for being one of our Club Safeguarding Officers, helping to make cricket a safe place for children and adults.