



Isle of Wight Cricket Board

Listening to Children Policy

1. Definitions

In this policy, unless the context requires otherwise:

- **IWCB** means Isle of Wight Cricket Board.
- **ECB** means England and Wales Cricket Board.
- **Children/Young People** refers to persons under the age of 18.
- **Safe Hands** means the ECB's cricket safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance for the protection of children.
- **LADO** means the Local Authority Designated Officer (for child protection issues).
- **Low-level concern** means behaviour by an adult that is inconsistent with expected conduct but does not meet the threshold for referral to statutory agencies.

2. Policy Statement

IWCB is committed to ensuring that all children participating in cricket under its remit enjoy a safe, positive, and inclusive experience. We believe that creating a culture of active listening and consultation with children helps to embed safeguarding, improve programmes, and empower children to raise concerns or share ideas. We will provide multiple, accessible avenues for children to express their views, and we will take their input seriously. This policy complements our overall safeguarding framework, including adherence to Safe Hands and relevant statutory child protection legislation (Children Act 2004).

3. Purpose / Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. **Ensure voice, participation and agency:** Children should have age-appropriate opportunities to express views, raise concerns, and contribute to decisions about their cricketing experience.
2. **Promote a culture of speaking up:** Children (and their parents/carers) should feel safe and confident to raise concerns about behaviour, practice, or welfare without fear of reprisal.
3. **Improve quality and safeguarding:** Feedback from children should inform improvements in coaching, welfare, facilities, behaviour standards, inclusion and safeguarding practices.
4. **Embed transparency and accountability:** The processes by which feedback or concerns are handled must be clear, timely and accountable to the child, while respecting confidentiality and safeguarding requirements.

4. Scope



This policy applies to all children participating in cricket programmes, activities, events or squads organised by IWCB or under its oversight. It also applies to all staff, coaches, volunteers, officials and other adults engaged in those programmes.

5. Principles

In implementing this policy, IWCB will:

- Treat children with dignity and respect; listen to them and take seriously what they share.
- Provide safe, confidential and multiple routes for children to express views or concerns.
- Ensure feedback is adapted to different ages, abilities, communication styles and any additional needs.
- Respond promptly, transparently and appropriately to what children say, including providing feedback on action taken (where possible).
- Uphold the principles of safeguarding confidentiality, data protection and duty of care.
- Ensure that no adverse consequences or reprisals follow from a child raising a concern.
- Provide training and support to all staff/volunteers on listening, responding and safeguarding.

6. How IWCB Will Enable Listening and Participation

Below is a non-exhaustive list of methods the IWCB commits to use. These will be regularly evaluated and adapted.

Mechanism	Implementation	Frequency
Welcome communication	Send out the IWCB Player Handbook to the parents/carers of new squad members explaining expectations, who to contact and encouraging them to speak up.	At the start of winter training and when a new player registers.
Player / parent induction meeting	At the start of each season, hold a remote meeting with players, their parents/carers and the CDM and CSO to explain expectations, communication routes and gather initial feedback.	Annually
Player Forum	Junior players are invited to discuss programme design, safeguarding, experience, inclusion etc.	Annually
Embedding reflection in sessions	Coaches facilitate reflection during/after training and matches.	Ongoing



	- What went well? - What could we do differently? - Is anything worrying you?	
Player Development Plans (PDPs)	Coaches to involve Pathway players in the review of their PDP during the season.	Scheduled reviews during the season
Awareness of the ECB survey	Promote and encourage players to complete the ECB's online surveys	As available
Anonymous channels	Display QR codes in coaching venues to gather anonymous feedback for children reluctant to speak directly to staff	Ongoing

7. Responding to Concerns Raised by Children

When a child raises a concern, the IWCB will respond through the following steps:

- Listen, Reassure, Record
- Assess and Escalate
- Feedback (where safe & appropriate)
- Take Action / Follow up
- Review and Learn

4. IWCB Contact Details

Isle of Wight County Safeguarding Officer - Sarah Peake cso@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)

Version: 3

Date Completed – 06/10/2025

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Review Date: 06/10/26