



SAFEGUARDING: CREATING A SAFER CULTURE FOR ALL

Welcome and thank you

Firstly, thank you to all clubs that completed their pre-season safeguarding preparations ahead of the 2026 outdoor season. Your commitment to ensuring cricket continues to be played in a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment is appreciated. I hope this latest update supports you throughout the season.

DBS Updates

To make verification easier and more accessible, Digital Verification has now been added to the ECB DBS process. A Digital Verification is an electronic record that meets DBS identity requirements. The cost is £4.92 per submitted application. Digital ID reduces delays, removes the need to present original documents in person, and helps ensure a smoother, more efficient application process. **Digital ID is optional.** Applicants can still choose the traditional route of presenting physical documents if they prefer.

For further information: [DBS and Qualifications – Safe Hands](#)



Disclosure & Barring Service

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



Please continue to update your SHMS account with any new volunteers and remove anyone who no longer has a role at the club to ensure full compliance. The following roles must be added:

- Club Safeguarding Officer
- Open Age Captains
- Coaches
- Club Chair

Club Affiliation - ECB Regulations Adoption

Please use reasonable endeavours to ensure ALL participants agree to comply with their obligations under the ADR, GCR, RCR and the ECB's Safeguarding Regulations.

IMPLEMENTATION METHODS



Membership Forms
Add a clause to your joining paperwork e.g. "By joining [Club Name], you agree to comply with the ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations, General Conduct Regulations, Recreational Conduct Regulations, and Safeguarding Regulations. You accept that each of [RCB name] and the ECB/Cricket Regulator can take action to enforce these Regulations, as applicable."



Communications
Include reminders in emails/newsletters about regulatory responsibilities. See the Club Affiliation Toolkit for suggested templates.



Notice Boards
Post notices in high-traffic areas:

- Changing rooms
- Club entrance
- Social and spectator areas





Legislation Updates from the Cricket Regulator

Following the introduction of the [Crime and Policing Act 2026](#), this is a short update on what this means for Cricket.

DBS and Safer Recruitment

The removal of the “supervision exemption” means individuals working regularly with children are now eligible for enhanced DBS checks with barred list information. However, within cricket, our existing approach already exceeds this requirement, as:

- We do not permit individuals in regulated activity to coach or supervise children without a DBS check, even where they are supervised.
- Assistant coaches are already required to hold DBS clearance.

All Stars Activators and parent helpers

We recognise that many clubs rely on parents supporting sessions, particularly within All Stars Cricket.

- Parents are still encouraged to support no more than three sessions without a DBS check.
- Once a parent has helped at three combined sessions, they are classed as an “Adult Helper” and must apply for an ECB DBS check immediately.

This approach remains unchanged and continues to provide a proportionate and practical route into volunteering while maintaining appropriate safeguards. In practice, this means clubs should already be compliant with the updated legislation. Whilst the above puts cricket in a strong position regarding DBS requirements, we encourage the continued promotion and the effective use of safer recruitment processes, ensuring the right checks and vetting remain consistently applied beyond DBS checks.

Mandatory Reporting

The Act introduced a mandatory duty to report child sexual abuse for those in regulated activity, including sports roles. This is already reflected within the updated SGL3 Safe Hands training, which explains the expectations around mandatory reporting and reinforces that concerns involving statutory agencies must be reported to the County Safeguarding Officer (CSO). **The reporting pathways remain the same, however, there is now a clear individual responsibility to ensure concerns are reported appropriately and escalated.**

For example, if a child discloses sexual abuse to a coach, the coach should report this to their Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO). The CSO must then escalate and work with the County Safeguarding Officer to ensure that mandatory reporting processes are followed. However, the responsibility does not end there. The individual coach must follow up with their CSO to be confident that the concern has been properly escalated to statutory agencies. Failure to do so may result in a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS), which could lead to the individual being barred from working in child-facing roles.

The legislation reinforces that individuals cannot assume someone else has reported, they must be assured the appropriate referral has been made by their CSO.

Wider changes

The Act also introduces broader safeguarding measures and new criminal offences such as strengthening responses to Child Criminal Exploitation and Violence Against Women and Girls

(VAWG) in Sport. Any relevant changes arising from the Act will be reflected in updates to the ECB Safeguarding Kit Bag resources this year.

Club Visits

As part of our ongoing support for clubs and Club Safeguarding Officers, I will be carrying out informal drop-in visits throughout the season. These visits are intended to provide supportive conversations, share good practice and see how safeguarding is embedded within our clubs in a collaborative way. All clubs are therefore asked to send through a selection of suitable dates and times to me for a visit to take place during the season.

Please email dates to: cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk

Ahead of the visit it would be useful, if you haven't already, to complete the **Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment** checklist which can be found in the ECB's "Safeguarding Kit Bag".

Safeguarding Training Links



Please 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](#).

<https://www.ecb.co.uk/about/policies/safeguarding/safeguarding-training>

Opening Up – Mental Health Support Reminder



A reminder that 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 free workshop to be delivered to your club, please contact Sarah - cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk.

Please remember that we have a number of staff trained in Mental Health First Aid who are available should you need support or wish to signpost someone for assistance.

 Alex Barton IWCB alex@isleofwightcricket.co.uk	 Kate Barton IWCB iwkaterbi@gmail.com	 Martin Blackman IWCB & Ventnor CC martin@isleofwightcricket.co.uk	 Jodie Blaize Arreton CC jodie.blaize@outlook.com	 Ash Goldsmith IWCB, Newport CC & Ryde CC admin@isleofwightcricket.co.uk	 Tina Rowson IWCB & Ryde CC wgdo@isleofwightcricket.co.uk	 Sarah Peake IWCB cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk
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Thank you once again for being one of our Club Safeguarding Officers, helping to make cricket a safe place for children and adults.