



Isle of Wight Cricket Board

Safeguarding for Captains of Open Age Teams

Roles and Responsibilities of a Cricket Team Captain

As a team captain, you have multiple responsibilities beyond the game itself. One of the most crucial is safeguarding the well-being of all individuals involved, particularly players under the age of 18.

Safeguarding Responsibilities

- You have a **duty of care** for all under-18 players on your team and the opposition's team.
- You must provide a **team sheet** declaring the ages of all players.
- To take on the role of captain, you **must have a current ECB DBS**. If you don't have one, ask your Club or County Safeguarding Officer to start the process – it's free and easy to obtain.

Supporting Young Players

- Clubs rely on the **development of younger players**, many of whom later join Open Age teams.
- Your role is vital in shaping their experience, ensuring that players under-18 receive **understanding, encouragement, and support**.
- If younger players are not guided properly, they may lose interest and leave the game.
- To help you, it is important you follow the guidance set out in [ECB Safe Hands](#), which is Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding.

Do's and Don'ts for Team Captains

Do:

- Remember that **anyone under 18 is a child in the eyes of the law**.
- Take your **responsibility seriously**.
- Know who your **Club Safeguarding Officer** is and how to contact them.
- Understand how to **respond to a disclosure from a child**.
- **Report concerns** about a child to your Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Inform the **Umpire** about all Under-18s in your team.
- Have **emergency contact details** and be aware of any medical conditions or allergies of Under-18s.
- Welcome and **include new Under-18 players**, encourage them to share any concerns.
- Promote **good sportsmanship**, recognising talent and effort beyond match results.
- Provide opportunities for young players to **fully experience the game** beyond fielding.
- Treat everyone **equally**, regardless of **age, gender identity, race, religion, social background, or other personal factors**.
- Challenge **bullying** directed at Under-18s.
- When communicating with Under-18s via text or email, always **copy their parents** or communicate only with parents when possible.
- Be aware of your club's **transport policy** – Under 18s must arrange their own transport.
- Follow your club's **changing room policy** – Under-18s should change separately or at home.
- Ensure no **mobile phones** are used in changing rooms, following ECB guidance.
- Follow ECB regulations for **helmets, fielding, fast bowling, and concussion guidance**.

Don't:



- Engage in **any** sexually related contact, gestures, or comments towards Under-18s.
- Allow **underage players to consume alcohol**.
- Communicate with Under-18s via **social media or phone**.
- Tolerate **bullying or intimidating behaviour**.
- Select players **below the ECB-approved age limits**:
 - Junior cricketers **must be at least 12** to play in Open Age cricket and **require written parental permission**, and even then, only if deemed physically and emotionally mature enough to compete safely at this level.
 - In exceptional circumstances, County-squad members **must be at least 11** and require **written approval** from both their County Talent Pathway Lead and parents.

If you have any concerns, there are several ways to report it:

- To your Club Safeguarding Officer – please find out from your club who this person is.
- To your County Safeguarding Officer – cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk / 07598137872
- To the Cricket Regulator Directly – safeguarding@cricketregulator.co.uk / 020 7432 1200.
- If urgent and you cannot contact your club, or County Safeguarding Officer, you should call the NSPCC 24-hour helpline on **0808 800 5000**.
- If it is an emergency and someone is at immediate risk, then call the Police or Children’s Social Care in your area.

IWCB Contact Details

County Safeguarding Officer – Sarah Peake

Email: cso@isleofwightcricket.co.uk

Phone: **07598137872**

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