

An Introduction from Tom Harrison

ECB Chief Executive Officer

Children are the future of our sport – so it's vital they experience cricket in a safe, friendly and enjoyable environment. That's why we first launched 'Safe Hands' in 2003; establishing clear policies and procedures to support children in all areas of our game.

For our game to continue to flourish and prosper, we all need cricket to be as child and family friendly as possible. We have all been delighted with the success of 'All Stars Cricket', which is built on being exciting, safe and great fun. We are determined to grow children's involvement in cricket. 2019 sees us hosting the Men's World Cup, where we hope the men can match the brilliant women's win in 2017 at a Lords ground packed with fans of all ages, thousands of whom were children. Inspiring the next generation of cricket lovers is what we are all about, and the hundred ball competition will be focussing on families and children

The 'Safe Hands' programme forms an important part of ECB's wider strategy for the game – "Inspiring Generations" – which drives our plans to grow cricket at every level.

We incorporate the 'Safe Hands' programme into our club accreditation programme 'ECB Clubmark' – giving clubs and leagues clear guidance on how best to welcome young people into the sport and to keep them involved.

As we all know, team sports like cricket are a great way for children to acquire life-skills; learn how to work with others, interact with adults and take on specific roles and responsibilities.

So whether you are interacting with players, coaches or volunteers, please do make sure everyone involved in your club is fully aware of these policies and procedures and understands their importance.

With your support and help, we can continue to put young people's interests first at all levels of the game ; giving parents and carers the confidence they need to entrust their children into our care.

We want everyone involved in cricket to make children's safety and well-being a major priority in their work - remember: Safeguarding is Everyone's Business!

Tom Harrison

ECB Chief Executive Officer

NSPCC Endorsement of the ECB's Safeguarding Policy

'All children and young people have the right to participate in their sport in a safe and enjoyable environment. National governing bodies of sport need to provide support, which includes up to date user friendly guidance, to help staff and volunteers working with children to fulfil their duty of care towards their participants. The ECB's revised Safe Hands manual builds on the previous resources and reflects current best practice in safeguarding.

Everyone involved in delivering cricket to children and young people has a role to play in creating the best possible environment for them. The emphasis in this updated version of Safe Hands is on providing a welcoming and inclusive club, where the views of children and their parents are actively sought and considered. The 'kit bag' provides the resources that cricket clubs need to create an environment where children will feel safe and where they can have confidence in sharing any concerns they may have. Implementation through staff and volunteers across cricket who are 'professional' and approachable will help children feel safe and will encourage good practice.

We are living in a world where developments in technology move rapidly. It is essential that adults are aware of both the benefits and the hazards associated with social media and electronic communications in order to ensure young people's safety is prioritised. The guidance for clubs on the use of social media, texting and email is helpful and provides the clear and straightforward guidance that Sports clubs are asking for.

The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit is pleased to endorse this revised version of Safe Hands and the wider work that the ECB is undertaking in relation to safeguarding children involved in cricket.'

Anne Tiivas

Director NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit

ECB Guidance Concerning the Use of this “Safe Hands” Manual

This “Safe Hands” manual provides a source of policy statements relating to safeguarding and a practical guide, and reference document, for cricket clubs and all those involved with cricket. The most up to date version is always available on the ECB website.

Safeguarding is Everyone's Business. "Safe Hands" helps clubs, centres, teams, squads, academies, leagues and all involved in cricket to plan, prioritise and implement the various safeguarding activities necessary to provide the best possible environment and experience for children in cricket.

"Safe Hands" takes into account relevant legislation at the time of publication, but it does not intend to make the reader an expert on the legal framework, or subject, of safeguarding. Instead it offers practical guidance, aiming to increase general awareness of both mandatory requirements and good practice.

The “Safe Hands” Safeguarding Policy operates on both a national and local level, and is written to be applicable to all levels of the game across all areas of the country. “Safe Hands” must be adopted and implemented by every cricket club affiliated to the ECB.

The guidance in this manual is reviewed every year by the ECB to ensure it remains current and relevant.



Key Definitions and Concepts

The key definitions and concepts shown below are taken from “Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018 ”. This is Government guidance for agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

“Child”	A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The word child/children will be used throughout this publication to denote <u>all persons under the age of 18</u> .
“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children”	This is defined in government guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protecting children from maltreatment - preventing impairment of children’s health and development - ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and - taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
Key Concept – Who is responsible for safeguarding?	‘Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2018’ states: <p>“safeguarding children – the actions we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm - is everyone's responsibility.”</p>
Key Concept – A child-centred approach	‘Working Together 2018’ states that a “child centred approach is fundamental to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the child” AND <p>“Anyone working with children should see and speak to the child; listen to what they say; take their views seriously...”.</p>
Key Concept – “Early Help”	‘Working Together 2018’ encourages all agencies to provide ‘Early help’ – “Providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later”. We must make sure we have planned for children's involvement to make sure we are meeting their needs, and if we have any concerns about a child, to act on these without without delay.

Key Definitions and Concepts

Key Concept - “Child Protection”	Child protection is one part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of maltreatment. Effective child protection is essential as part of the wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should proactively safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.
“Abuse”	For definitions of the different types of abuse, and common indicators of abuse please see Section 2.



Glossary of Other Terms

Children's Social Care	The services formerly known as Social Services, (the name may vary around the country)
CPSU	Child Protection in Sport Unit
CRB	The former Criminal Records Bureau (who provided 'CRB' checks until December 2012.) Now part of the DBS.
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service (Organisation formed in 2012 by the merger of the former Criminal Records Bureau and Independent Safeguarding Authority)
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board Limited
ECB ACO	England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials
ECBCA	England and Wales Cricket Board Coaches Association
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
Match Official	Umpires and scorers (whether members of the ECBACO or not)
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Official/Staff/ Volunteer/Team Manager and so on	A variety of titles have been used within this document to describe people working in cricket, such as 'staff', 'official', 'volunteer', 'team manager' and so on. This policy applies either directly, or indirectly, to all individuals involved in cricket according to their level of contact with children in cricket.
Safeguarding Partners	The lead agencies responsible for safeguarding: Local Authority, Health (Clinical Commissioning Group) and Police
Regulated Activity	Regulated Activity involves training, teaching, instructing, supervising or caring for a child on a frequent or intensive basis in an unsupervised capacity. Further information is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dbs-eligibility-guidance
Regulated Activity Provider (RAP)	The cricket organisation (such as County Boards, leagues, panels and clubs) that appoints people to roles of regulated activity
Supervision	For an individual to be deemed to be 'supervised', another individual, also carrying out Regulated Activity AND who has been ECB vetted, must be able to see and hear the interactions between the individual and the child/ren AT ALL TIMES IN ALL SESSIONS.

Acknowledgements

The ECB works with many individuals and organisations to continually improve its Safeguarding Work. We would like to thank them for their support and, in particular, when listed below their kind permission for use and adaptation of materials:

- Amateur Swimming Association
- British Canoe Union
- British Triathlon
- British Weight Lifting Association
- England Netball Association
- Federation of Artistic Roller Skating
- Kidscape
- Lawn Tennis Association
- Rugby Football Union
- sportscoach UK
- The Football Association
- **NSPCC**

We would also like to thank the NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit for all their support.



