

An Introduction From David Collier

ECB Chief Executive

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) produced the original version of “Safe Hands” in the autumn of 2003. That document was prefaced by the ECB giving its firm and enthusiastic commitment to ensuring cricket provides a safe, friendly and enjoyable experience for children. As the ECB’s Chief Executive I give a continuing commitment to that pledge.

As part of that policy, we committed to undertake a policy review in the autumn of 2006. This updated policy, which includes recent statutory guidance for all organisations providing services to children, is the product of that review, and came into effect in October 2007. It has also been reviewed annually since then.

Adopting and implementing this policy remains a requirement of affiliation to the ECB, and the “Safe Hands” Safeguarding Programme will continue to provide the central theme of the ECB club accreditation programme, ECB Clubmark.

As the National Governing Body for cricket we take our responsibility for the well-being of the game extremely seriously. We want the millions of people throughout England and Wales who enjoy our national summer sport, across all ages and from a hugely diverse range of backgrounds to have a positive experience, whatever their involvement. We also want to play our part in helping children achieve the five outcomes key to their well-being, and recognise the role we, in sport, are able to play in helping children “stay safe” and “be healthy”.

This Safeguarding Policy provides our sport with tools to ensure the whole game takes up the challenge of continuously improving the participation conditions for children. In addition, and of equally vital importance, it helps us ensure the many thousands of volunteers integral to our game are supported.

A vibrant and healthy club cricket infrastructure is important to the ECB and as such, on behalf of the ECB, I would like to thank you for playing your part in helping everyone involved in cricket to provide grounds to play our great game from the playground to the Test Arena.

David Collier
ECB Chief Executive

NSPCC Endorsement of the ECB's Safeguarding Policy

It is now seven years since the ECB produced the first edition of "Safe Hands". During this time cricket, and other sports, have developed much greater knowledge, and experience, of safeguarding in sport issues and have demonstrated a real commitment to children through the implementation of a wide range of initiatives. In 2009, the ECB successfully achieved the Advanced Level of Standards for Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport and continues to implement its Clubmark programme across the sport. Through these and other initiatives sport is leading the way in this work and, in the UK, has gained international reputation. The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit is pleased to endorse both this edition of "Safe Hands" and the wider work the ECB continues to undertake in relation to safeguarding children involved in the game.

Anne Tiivas

CPSU Director

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

This “Safe Hands” manual has altered over time as it becomes 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 main users of this manual are likely to be Club Welfare Officers, as they guide their club committee to plan, prioritise and implement the various safeguarding activities necessary to protect children, and volunteers, within cricket. However, this manual, and the policy statements, guidance notes and practical advice contained within it, is meant for use by all within cricket including parents, coaches, officials, and other volunteers.

This manual 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 for those involved in providing cricket activities for children, 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 for cricket clubs.



Key Definitions and Concepts

The key definitions and concepts shown below are taken from “Working Together to Safeguard Children”. This is a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children produced by the Government. It was last reviewed in April 2010.

“Child”	<p>A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital, prison or a Young Offenders’ Institution, does not change his, or her, status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989.</p> <p>The word child/children will be used throughout this publication to denote all persons under the age of 18.</p>
“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children”	<p>This is the process of protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and development, and ensuring they grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care ensuring children have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.</p>
“Child Protection”	<p>Child protection is part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are at risk of suffering, significant harm as a result of maltreatment.</p> <p>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 aim to safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.</p>
“Abuse”	<p>For definitions of the different types of abuse, and common indicators of abuse please see Section 2.</p>
Key Concept – Who is responsible for safeguarding?	<p>Working Together 2010 states “Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is the responsibility of the local authority (LA), working in partnership with other public organisations, the voluntary sector, children and young people, parents and carers, and the wider community.”</p>

Glossary of Other Terms

Children's Social Care	The services formerly known as Social Services, (however the name may vary around the country)
CPSU	Child Protection in Sport Unit
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau
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
ISA	Independent Safeguarding Authority
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer (in England only)
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Staff/Volunteer/ Official/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 working within cricket according to their level of contact with children in cricket. If you have any doubt as to its relevance to your role please contact the ECB Child Protection Team
Match Official	Umpires and scorers (whether members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials or not) who are appointed by the relevant authority
Regulated Activity	Regulated Activity is, in brief, training, teaching, supervising or caring for a child on a frequent (once a week or more); intensive (four days in a month); or overnight basis
Regulated Activity Provider (RAP)	The cricket organisation (such as County Boards, leagues and clubs) that appoints people to roles that undertake regulated activity
VBS	Vetting and Barring Scheme

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- The Football Association

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