



Bicester and North Oxford Cricket Club

ECB Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by young players

Since 2000 the ECB has issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in open age group cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure this guidance is followed at all times.

With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales.

A face protector represents an alternative head protection system for young wicket keepers. Face protectors are, at the time of publication of this guidance, a relatively new innovation. Wicketkeeper face protectors are covered by a new British Standard

Helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions. Wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector, when standing up to the stumps.

All young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box). All young wicketkeepers should regard a helmet with a faceguard or a face protector as a normal part of their protective equipment together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box).

The original guidance allowed parents, or guardians, to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. **However, now such parental consent should not be accepted in any form of cricket.** The ECB asks that this guidance is communicated to the parents, or guardians, of all young players through clubs and schools, and that young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.

ECB Fielding Regulations

- No young player in the Under 15 age group, or younger, shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball

- For players in the Under 13 age group, and below, the distance is 11 yards (10 metres)
- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales

Fast bowling directives

Directives for matches:

AGE: MAX OVERS PER SPELL MAX OVERS PER DAY

Up to 13 5 overs per spell 10 overs per day

U14, U15 6 overs per spell 12 overs per day

U16, U17 7 overs per spell 18 overs per day

U18, U19 7 overs per spell 18 overs per day

Directives for practice sessions:

AGE: MAX BALLS PER SESSION MAX SESSIONS PER WEEK

Up to 13 30 balls per session 2 sessions per week

U14, U15 36 balls per session 2 sessions per week

U16, U17 36 balls per session 3 sessions per week

U18, U19 42 balls per session 3 sessions per week