

Welfare Officers Report – 2016

The 2016 season was a largely uneventful one for the Welfare Officer, with (thankfully) no major issues reported on or off the field of play.

In the coming season, Surrey Cricket and the ECB are renewing their focus on the quantity of matches and the workload undertaken during matches by junior cricketers in light of some breaches of the ECB Guidelines by clubs around the county. This includes directives that boys and girls in the under-12 (or younger) age groups should not be taking part in adult cricket, where the young person is put at risk while sometimes compromising aspects of the game itself.

Bowling regulations, specifically looking at the workload for young cricketers, are also back under the spotlight – with the ECB introducing a 7-4-2 approach to this area: Not allowing a young cricketer, over a 7-day period, to bowl on more than 4 of those days and never more than 2 days consecutively. Although this is a guideline we are unlikely to fall foul of, it is something we must be mindful of and guidance will be issued by the ECB to parents (via the Club) at the beginning of next season.

Spirit of Cricket remains firmly on the agenda – sadly there were numerous incidents around the country during the 2016 season (including serious physical violence) and as a Club with a large junior contingent, we are reminded of our role in promoting and demonstrating the Spirit of Cricket at all times – whether young cricketers are on the field of play, or not.

Across Surrey, a number of coaches have been 'suspended' from their roles due to the fact that despite having completed the 1st stage of their DBS check (formerly known as the CRB check), they have not then completed the 2nd stage of forwarding their certificates to the relevant authority to verify their DBS clearance for cricket. As a result, they were continuing to coach despite technically not being cleared to do so. As a club, we shall undertake to ensure that anyone requiring clearance does not suffer the same fate.

Neal Jones

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