



## **Essex Cricket in the Community**

Safeguarding Policy for Essex Cricket

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Essex Cricket acknowledges its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of every child and young person who has been entrusted to its care, and is committed to ensuring that all children and young people participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience. A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 engaged in any club cricket activity. The Safeguarding Policy is not just to protect children in cricket, it is to introduce good practice, raise awareness and provide peace of mind.

This will be achieved by:

- Recognising that all Children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment.
- Expecting all clubs to appoint a Club Welfare Officer and ensuring that they attend all current and future training modules required by the ECB
- Ensuring that all people who work in cricket at or for our clubs, (such as Staff, Officials, Volunteers, Team Managers, Coaches etc.) understand that the Safe Hands Policy applies to them according to their level of contact with children in Cricket.
- Ensuring that all individuals working within cricket at or for Essex Cricket are provided with support through education and training so that they are aware of and can adhere to good practice and code of conduct guidelines
- Ensuring that correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing safeguarding and child protection concerns. Providing everyone connected with Essex Cricket (including parents, children and volunteers) with the opportunity to voice any concerns which they have (about possible suspected child abuse, and/or about poor practice) to the Essex Cricket Welfare Officer.
- Ensuring that all suspicions, concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately.
- Ensuring that access to confidential information relating to child welfare matters is restricted to Essex Cricket Welfare Officer and the appropriate external authorities as specified within ECB Safeguarding and child protection procedures.
- Recognise that abuse occurs when a vulnerable adult is mistreated, neglected or harmed by another person who holds a position of trust. Everyone has a right

to feel safe, and to live without fear of abuse, neglect or exploitation. This would include all visitors, parents and grandparents at the club or away fixtures.

– Providing a welcoming and empowering environment where children are asked for and are able to offer their views and opinions (for example, about the game, training sessions, or arrangements generally) is a safer environment, where children feel more able to share concerns, and everyone feels more able to challenge poor practice or behaviour.