



HOLMBURY ST MARY CRICKET CLUB

Policy for junior players in open age cricket

Our club recognises that we have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition the following specific requirements apply to young players in open age cricket

1. There is no definitive age at which Juniors should be introduced to open age cricket but we will determine each case on an individual basis dependent on their ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level, taking into account the requirement that **no Junior Cricketers younger than the age group of under 13 can play in open age cricket.**
2. **Any player in the Under 13 age group must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in open age cricket.** Captains must ensure that consent is obtained.
3. ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in open age cricket. All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and either a helmet or faceguard when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player they are running for is not doing so.
4. Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
5. Be supportive at all times for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
6. Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socializing, team talks, practice, decision making etc. so that they feel part of the team.
7. Be mindful that children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine how they develop as cricketers, so poor language, poor sportsmanship and a negative attitude to opponents should be avoided and it is the responsibility of the captains to make sure this is adhered to.

It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group plays open age cricket. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

Affiliated to the C.C.C. and S.C.B.

Member of the Surrey Downs League and Village Cricket League