

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

Over-arching Principles

1. Collingbourne Cricket Club is committed to ensuring that all adults participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience. The club is committed to offering the experience of playing cricket to as many members of the wider community as possible, including vulnerable adults.
2. The Law Commission for England and Wales defines a vulnerable adult as 'a person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services or is resident in a continuing care facility by reasons of mental or other disability, age or illness or who is, or may be, unable to take care of himself or herself or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or exploitation.'
3. The club will ensure that all adults participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have a right to enjoyment and be protected from harm in a safe environment. Vulnerable adults are entitled to privacy, to be treated with respect and dignity, to be able to choose how to live their lives, to the protection of the law and to have their rights upheld.
4. The club will ensure that individuals working within cricket at, or for the club provide a safe, positive and fun cricketing experience for vulnerable adults.
5. The definition of a vulnerable adult (see above) presupposes the need for care, and therefore, under normal circumstances, the club would expect any vulnerable adult participating in cricketing activities, to be accompanied by an appointed carer.

Club Welfare Officer

6. The club has appointed a Club Welfare Officer who has attended the appropriate training required by the ECB.
7. The Club Welfare Officer acts:
 - (a) As the first point of contact for all members of the club and volunteers in cases of suspected abuse.
 - (b) As a source of procedural advice for the members and Committee of the club.
 - (c) As the main point of contact for the ECB County Welfare Officer.
 - (d) As the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in connection with safeguarding vulnerable adults.
8. The name and contact details of the Club Welfare Officer are detailed in the Club Handbook and displayed on the club notice board.

Members of the club and volunteers working with vulnerable adults

9. The Club will ensure that all those who work in cricket at, or for the club understand the club's policy with regard to vulnerable adults.

10. The club will ensure that those who work closely or regularly with vulnerable adults are recruited and appointed in accordance with the appropriate guidelines and any relevant legislation, and are provided with relevant training and support so that good practice is maintained at all times.

11. New volunteers will fill in an application form and will be interviewed by the Club Welfare Officer and one other officer of the club. Written references will be obtained and a vetting check completed before the volunteer may work with vulnerable adults

Reporting Procedures

12. All those who have regular or direct contact with vulnerable adults must be able to recognise and respond to the signs and indicators of abuse. The Management Executive of the Department of Health and Social Services has defined abuse as 'the physical, psychological, emotional, financial or sexual maltreatment, or neglect of a vulnerable adult by another person. The above may be a single act or repeated over a period of time. It may take one form or a multiple of forms. The lack of appropriate action can also be a form of abuse.' Abuse can be physical, sexual, psychological, financial or material, institutional, discriminatory or as a result of neglect or an act of omission.

13. Through the Club Welfare Officer everyone connected with the club has the opportunity to voice any concerns they have about possible abuse of vulnerable adults, or inappropriate practice. All members of the club and volunteers must ensure that any concerns and allegations with regard to the safety of vulnerable adults are taken seriously and reported swiftly to the Club Welfare Officer. Members and volunteers must adopt a culture of 'whistleblowing' in all matters of safeguarding.

14. It is not the responsibility of those individuals working in cricket to determine if abuse has taken place, but it is their responsibility to act upon and report any concerns.

15. Confidentiality should, however, be maintained at every stage of the reporting procedure. In normal circumstances only those individuals within the reporting structure should be informed of any disclosure, suspicion or allegation. However, in order to protect vulnerable adults, it may be necessary in some circumstances to share information with carers or representatives.

16. The Club Welfare Officer will respond swiftly to any disclosure, suspicion or allegation. He will record any relevant information in detail, and, if he has any concerns, he will report the relevant information to the County Welfare Officer.

17. In exceptional circumstances the Club Welfare Officer may need to make a report directly to the police or the Local Authority Designated Officer.

Team Selection

18. The club operates a strict non-discriminatory policy on membership, and all members of the club and invited guests, including vulnerable adults, are subject to normal team selection procedures.

Health and Safety

19. The club has carried out risk assessments on all its cricketing activities. The club will adhere to all ECB policies and directives, and will not jeopardise the safety of any individuals.

Emergency procedures:

20. The club has the following emergency procedures in place for dealing with accidents and injuries:

- (a) Access to first aid equipment is available at all coaching sessions and matches.
- (b) First Aid kits are to be found in the main scoreboard and club house.
- (c) Contents of First Aid kits are monitored by the club welfare officer.
- (d) The Accident/Incident Report Book is located in the club house kitchen in which all accidents and incidents are recorded.
- (e) The Accident/Incident Report Book is monitored by the club welfare officer.
- (f) Telephone numbers of and directions to local doctors' surgeries, hospital A & E departments and police are displayed on the club notice board.