

December 2009

Dear Safe Hands Owner

Based on attendance sheets received from Time to Listen courses, we have on record that you are an owner of Safe Hands - Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children.

Each year, following the cricket season, the ECB undertake a review of Safe Hands, to ensure the policy remains up to date with current statutory guidance, best practice and ECB rules and directives.

As you may be aware, there have been recent legislative changes to the requirements for the vetting of an individual's suitability to work with children. The new Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) is due to be implemented during 2010 (However it is only anticipated to really start after the 2010 cricket season). The ECB are currently awaiting further detailed Government Guidance and Sports Sector Specific Guidance in relation to the Scheme. This is due in early 2010 and only then will the ECB be able to make relevant changes to Safe Hands.

We have therefore decided that there would be little point in undergoing a full reprint with already identified amendments to the policy when further changes are still anticipated in the New Year. However, there have been a few changes to some ECB directives and guidance and other aspects of safeguarding best practice which we would like to highlight at this time.

Below we have listed sections / areas of Safe Hands that will change:

1. General amendments:

There are a few minor amendments that have to be made throughout in relation to wording, spelling etc. For example:

- 'child welfare' has been amended to read 'child safeguarding'
- Inclusion of the Local Authority Designated Officers (LADOs) with Police or Children's Social Care
- PE & School Sport Club Links (PESSCL) strategy' is now known as 'PE and Sport Strategy for Young People (PESSYP)'
- Officials Association or the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers is now referred to as ECB Association of Cricket Officials
- 'Overseas' is now referred to as 'Non-UK'
- All references to Self Declaration forms have now been removed
- Definitions of abuse are brought in line with the new VBS definitions

2. ECB directives and guidance and other safeguarding best practice:

The amended versions of these sections will be available to download from the website as of 21st December 2009 until the full reprint takes place.

- Kit Bag (KB) 11 - ECB 'Non-UK vetting form' [Changes: New name, slight format changes]
- KB 16 - ECB Fast Bowling Directives [Changes: amendment to overs that can be bowled, now signed off by Mike Gatting]
- KB 17 - ECB Guidance for Selection of Young Players in Open Age Group Cricket [Changes: now a combined document of KB17 & 18, with new name: 'ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket']
- KB18 - ECB Guidance on Junior Cricketers playing in Open Age Group Cricket [Changes: KB18 no longer exists and is referred to KB 17 as they have now been merged into a combined document]
- KB29 - ECB Photography and Video Camera Guidelines [Changes: Storing of video material, informing the other side if no consent]

Please be aware:

KB14 - ECB Safety Guidance on Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players may change. It is anticipated that by the start of 2010 season, there will be a new British Standard for wicket keeper faceguards which will be incorporated into this item. However, this is not anticipated to be ready before Christmas 2009.

3. Vetting and VBS:

Once we have received further clarification from Government and Sports Specific Guidance we will amend the relevant sections.

We will also go ahead with the full reprint of Safe Hands, including the changes listed above as well as full updates of all documents to the website at that time - this is anticipated to be in Spring 2010.

Please ensure that all relevant parties in your club or league are aware of the updates.

If you have any queries, please email safeguarding@ecb.co.uk

With best wishes for the festive season
ECB Ethics and Compliance Team