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|  | EVERSLEY CRICKET CLUBOpen Age Matches |  |

**Introduction**

The ECB has issued the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in Open Age

matches.

This guidance applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current

season.

Guidance for Clubs and Leagues

All clubs must recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club.

This duty of care also extends to Leagues that allow the participation of young players in adult teams in them

League. 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 adult matches:

• All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when

batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket Parental consent not to wear a helmet

should not be accepted in adult matches. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the

player he is running for is not doing so.

Junior Players playing in Open Age matches

• The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captain.

The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a young

player comes within the restricted distance.

• The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in

an adult match who are in the Under 19 age group or younger even if the player is not a fast bowler.

This requirement also covers arty young player taking the field as a substitute fielder. The ECB Team Sheet

cards are freely available to facilitate this.

• Any player in the Under 13 age group and younger must have explicit written consent from a parent or

guardian before participating in adult matches. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures

ensure that consent is obtained. The guidance related to changing and showering (see 'Safe Hands' —

Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children) must be adhered to.

• Any club wishing to play a player in the Under 11 age group in an adult League or Cup match must obtain

the explicit prior approval of the League or Cup management before the player can play. Approval

should only be given to exceptionally talented players.

It is recommended that advice is sought from the County Age Group Coach or other ECB Level 3 coach

as appropriate.

Clubs and Leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in adult matches at

their discretion. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is

present whenever a player in the Under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the

captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.

This guidance applies to all cricket in England and Wales from the beginning of the 2011 season.

ECB Fast Bowling

Match Directives

Age Max. overs Max. overs, per spell per day

Up to 13, 5 overs per spell, 10 overs per day

U14, U15, 6 overs per spell, 12 overs per day

U16, U17, 7 overs per spell, 18 overs per day

U18, U19, 7 overs per spell, 18 overs per day

For the purposes of these Directives a fast bowler is defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same

age group would **in normal circumstances** stand back to take the ball.

Having completed a spell, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs

to the length of his\* spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his

current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other. end. If this does not happen

his spell is deemed to be concluded. If play is interrupted, for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell

in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of

overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler

cannot bowl again, from either end, mail the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the

interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether

scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match, he cannot exceed the maximum number

overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell

if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his

spell have been bowled from the same end. If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs

in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast.

Captains, Team Managers and umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times.

\*Any reference to he / his should be interpreted to include she / her.

Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current

season.

Fielding Regulations

The ECB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a

hard ball is used.

• No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards

(7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the offside, until the batsman has played at

the ball.

• For players in the Under 13 age group and below, the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).

• These minimum distances apply, even if the player is wearing a helmet.

• Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop

the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.

• In addition, any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18,

must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres)

of the bat, except behind the wicket on the offside. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment

whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.

• These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the

age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.