

BRIGHTLINGSEA CRICKET CLUB
JUNIOR PLAYERS IN OPEN AGE (SENIOR) CRICKET
POLICY STATEMENT



Statement of Intent

In line with ECB guidelines, as a Club our overall aim is to ensure that our young players are provided with the environment and opportunities to develop their cricketing skills and interests in safety. This policy statement applies to training and nets as well as matches.

General

- Making the step up from junior to open age cricket is an important event in any player's cricket experience. Around this we will take into consideration the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience
- Captains, coaches and team managers **MUST** take into account the requirements on age as laid out by the ECB (detailed below)
- Each case must be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity
- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible and age-appropriate – e.g. socialising, team talks, practice, decision-making – so they feel part of the team
- On the field of play, juniors will be provided appropriate opportunities to show their talents in the three key aspects of play – batting, bowling and fielding – allowing them to develop and experience success
- Junior players will not be used to just 'fill' team places when no-one else is available and only end up fielding
- Junior players will be positively encouraged and supported even when they may not be experiencing success

Our Duty of Care

- We recognise our 'duty of care' obligations towards young players in Open Age cricket. This duty of care is 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.

Restrictions

ECB Helmets, Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations for junior players will be adhered to

- 1. Helmets** - all cricketers under the age of 18 must wear a head protector whilst batting in matches or practice sessions. The ECB also now strongly recommends that junior players use head protectors which have been tested against the junior sized ball.
 - Wicketkeepers under the age of 18 should wear a head protector with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector, at all times when standing up to the stumps.
 - Any individual taking responsibility for any player(s) under the age of 18 should take reasonable steps to ensure this guidance is followed at all times. No parental consent to the non-wearing of a head protector should be accepted.
- 2. Fast Bowling** - For the purpose 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.

Age	Max. overs per spell	Max. overs per day
Up to U13	5	10
U14, U15	6	12
U16, U17, U18, U19	7	14

- Having completed a spell, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of that bowler's spell have been bowled from the same end
- 3. 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 batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side, 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 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side. 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

Minimum Age

- The minimum age for Open Age cricket is the U13 age group. Players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old on the 1st September of the preceding year
- This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or area squad (or region in Wales). Written parental consent is required
- Exceptionally, players who are selected in a County U12 squad (or Regional squad in Wales) in spring for a summer squad - are also eligible to play Open age cricket (providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play)
- Please be aware that at under 12 level the ECB recommends that the focus is on participation rather than Talent I.D, and many counties no longer run under 12 squads. Inclusion of ANY Under 12s in Open Age teams should be an exception and not an expectation