

Safety Guidelines

Helmets

Any player under the age of 18 playing in the Saracens Hertfordshire Premier Cricket League, County 20/20 or County Trophy matches must wear a helmet when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. The Umpires must be provided with a team sheet before the start of each match identifying any player who is in under 19 or below age groups. Captains, Coaches, Managers, and umpires must always ensure that a young player wears a helmet.

Youth players as umpire

Where youth players are required to stand as an umpire, only as a last resort should players aged under 18 umpire any part of a match, unless qualified as an umpire or by agreement between both captains. Where possible, any under 18 Umpire should stand only at the striker's end, (i.e., square leg), with an adult at the bowler's end.

Captains' responsibilities.

The Captain is responsible for the safety of all youth players in his team. Captains must ensure young players wear a helmet in adult cricket regardless of the speed of the bowling or the circumstances of the match. Captains must also ensure when placing their field that young players do not infringe the fielding regulations for young players issued by the ECB. Please refer to the Fielding Regulations set out below.

Responsibility and action of umpires

Umpire's should establish before the start of any match the age group of all young players taking part in the match. Such players MUST be identified on the SHPCL Team-sheet exchanged at the beginning of a game. This may require a meeting with the manager, coach, or captain. When the captain has indicated that there are young players taking part, the umpires should remind the captain that he is responsible for the safety of the young players throughout the match. The umpires should not allow play to proceed if the young player is not wearing a helmet in line with League and ECB regulations.

What are the legal implications?

If a young player receives a head injury in a situation where the guidance had not been followed, there is a material risk that the person responsible for the player at the time the injury was sustained would be potentially liable for damages for negligence. To establish negligence, it would be necessary to show:

- that a person owes the cricketer a duty of care
- that the person acted in breach of that duty of care; and
- that the cricketer suffered loss or damage because of that breach.

Normally, the Captain will be responsible for identifying who was responsible for the safety of the player at the time the injury was sustained.