

Safeguarding Responsibilities

All Clubs have a duty of care to all juniors and vulnerable adults who participate in cricket.

This is why every club has to appoint a trained Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO). It's part of a club's membership to ECB, Hertfordshire Cricket and SHPCL. Failure to have a trained CSO negates the club's membership and the club will then be penalised as per league rules.

Hertfordshire Cricket understands that a club may lose their CSO at an inappropriate time and to ensure continuity, clubs can apply for emergency cover procedures to ensure cricket continues. For more details visit www.hertscricket.org In junior cricket, a trained umpire should always officiate in matches. This is to ensure ECB directives are implemented.

In Open Age Cricket, the captain is responsible to ensure that the club's duty of care is put into practice.

Many clubs now have a pre-season meeting whereby the club's safeguarding officer meets all the club's open age team captains, going through the club's responsibilities according to ECB requirements and thereby the captain(s) have a greater understanding of their roles and responsibilities, on and off the field.

These Directives relate to open age matches whether they are league or friendly or any day of the week. The CSO should ensure that all information relating to the following is included:

- All regular adult team captains, umpires and scorers must have a current Cricket Specific DBS check on the day of the match
- All under 18s on the day of the match must wear a helmet when batting
- All fielding restriction to under 18s (age as at 31st August in previous year) must be implemented
- All Fast Bowling directives to under 18s (age as at 31st August in previous year) must be implemented

The captains should understand the club's policies for:

- Changing rooms, showering and photography
- Transporting juniors to and from matches
- Social media, text and emails
- Data Protection
- Anti bullying
- The ECB restriction for juniors playing in Open Age Cricket must be observed (Note: In SHPCL Premier and Championship no under 13 can be registered to play)

The captain should also know:

- The club's reporting procedures
- Where to find the list of important phone numbers and the location of the local hospital

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New Guidelines for Youth Players in SHPCL

SHPCL have issued new guidelines for youth players to participate in SHPCL for 2021. These enforce the duty of care responsibilities that clubs, parents and coaches have with regards to youth players who participate in SHPCL.

For the 2021 season SHPCL have issued guidelines on the number of youth players per team in their league matches. It is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards young players in open age cricket.

1. Teams in Division One and below are limited to a maximum FOUR players who are in the under 13 and/ or under 14 player age group, with a maximum of 2 x U13 players
2. The minimum age for open age cricket is the Under 13 age group.
3. Non-CAG players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old on the 1st of September of the preceding year. This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or area squad.
4. For the avoidance of doubt, the following is not a guideline. A completed parental consent is required for all Under 13s in order that they may play open age cricket. This consent form must be completed as per current SHPCL procedures and submitted to league registration secretary for approval to play, prior to the players first match.
5. Failure to complete this registration process will lead to a 30-point league deduction for each individual non-compliant incident.

Clubs, Coaches and Parents

Clubs, coaches and parents must ensure that youth players who are in the Under 13s age group or older adhere to the following conditions: The players age group is determined based upon their age on 1st September in the year preceding the current season.

- The Parent/Guardian of an Under 13 must submit a completed consent form for permission to play in the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League. The consent form is available on SHPCL website. Procedures for completing the consent form are also displayed.
- This form must be submitted to the League Registration Officer by 5pm of the day prior to the player playing their first match and their permission to play must be given prior to registration on League website and prior to playing their first match.
- This form must be signed by an ECB CA Level Two Coach to verify that the players' development would be enhanced by playing in Open Age cricket.
- The club's Safeguarding Officer should keep a copy of the completed consent form in a safe place.