

# An Introduction from Tom Harrison

## ECB Chief Executive Officer

Children are the future of our sport – so it's vital they experience cricket in a safe, friendly and enjoyable environment.

If our game is to continue to flourish and prosper, we all need cricket to be as child and family friendly as possible.

That's why we first launched 'Safe Hands' in 2003; establishing clear policies and procedures to support children in all areas of our game.

The programme also forms an important part of ECB's wider strategy for the game – Cricket Unleashed – which underpins all our plans to grow cricket at every level over the next five years.

The 'Safe Hands' programme has developed and evolved over the last 13 years – but the overall aim remains the same. We want everyone involved in our recreational game to make children's safety and well-being a major priority.

We also incorporate the 'Safe Hands' programme into our club accreditation programme 'ECB Clubmark' – giving clubs and leagues clear guidance on how best to welcome young people into the sport and to keep them involved.

As we all know, team sports like cricket are a great way for children to acquire life-skills; learn how to work with others, interact with adults and take on specific roles and responsibilities.

So whether you are interacting with players, coaches or volunteers, please do make sure everyone involved in your club is fully aware of these policies and procedures and understands their importance.

With your support and help, we can continue to put young people's interests at the heart of our grassroots game; giving parents and carers the confidence they need to entrust their children into our care.

**Tom Harrison**  
ECB Chief Executive Officer

# NSPCC Endorsement of the ECB's Safeguarding Policy

'All children and young people have the right to participate in their sport in a safe and enjoyable environment. National governing bodies of sport need to provide support, which includes up to date user friendly guidance, to help staff and volunteers working with children to fulfil their duty of care towards their participants. The ECB's revised Safe Hands manual builds on the previous resources and reflects current best practice in safeguarding.

Everyone involved in delivering cricket to children and young people has a role to play in creating the best possible environment for them. The emphasis in this updated version of Safe Hands is on providing a welcoming and inclusive club, where the views of children and their parents are actively sought and considered. The 'kit bag' provides the resources that cricket clubs need to create an environment where children will feel safe and where they can have confidence in sharing any concerns they may have. Implementation through staff and volunteers across cricket who are 'professional' and approachable will help children feel safe and will encourage good practice.

We are living in a world where developments in technology move rapidly. It is essential that adults are aware of both the benefits and the hazards associated with social media and electronic communications in order to ensure young people's safety is prioritised. The guidance for clubs on the use of social media, texting and email is helpful and provides the clear and straightforward guidance that Sports clubs are asking for.

The NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit is pleased to endorse this revised version of Safe Hands and the wider work that the ECB is undertaking in relation to safeguarding children involved in cricket.'

## **Anne Tiivas**

Director NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit

# ECB Guidance Concerning the Use of this “Safe Hands” Manual

This “Safe Hands” manual has altered over time as it becomes a source of policy statements relating to safeguarding and a practical guide, and reference document, for cricket clubs and all those involved with cricket.

The main users of this manual are likely to be Club Welfare Officers, as they guide their club committee to plan, prioritise and implement the various safeguarding activities necessary to protect children, and volunteers, within cricket. However, this manual, and the policy statements, guidance notes and practical advice contained within it, is meant for use by all within cricket including parents, children and young people, coaches, officials, and other volunteers.

This manual takes into account relevant legislation at the time of publication, but it does not intend to make the reader an expert on the legal framework, or subject, of safeguarding. Instead it offers practical guidance for those involved in providing cricket activities for children, aiming to increase general awareness of both mandatory requirements and good practice.

The “Safe Hands” Safeguarding Policy operates on both a national and local level, and is written to be applicable to all levels of the game across all areas of the country. “Safe Hands” must be adopted and implemented by every cricket club affiliated to the ECB.

The guidance in this manual is reviewed every year by the ECB to ensure it remains current and relevant for cricket clubs.



## Key Definitions and Concepts

**The key definitions and concepts shown below are taken from “Working Together to Safeguard Children, 2015”. This is Government guidance for agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.**

“Child”	A child is anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. ‘Children’ means ‘children and young people’ throughout. The word child/children will be used throughout this publication to denote <u>all persons under the age of 18</u> .
“Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children”	This is defined in government guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015) as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protecting children from maltreatment</li> <li>- preventing impairment of children’s health and development</li> <li>- ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care and</li> <li>- taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes</li> </ul>
Key Concept – Who is responsible for safeguarding?	Working Together 2015 states that “safeguarding children – the action we take to promote the welfare of children and protect them from harm – is everyone’s responsibility. Everyone who comes into contact with children and families has a role to play.” AND “If at any time it is considered that the child may be...in need...or that the child has suffered significant harm or is likely to do so, a referral should be made immediately to local authority Children’s Social Care.”
Key Concept – A child-centred approach	Working Together 2015 states that “effective safeguarding systems are child centred” AND “Children want to be respected, their views to be heard, to have stable relationships with professionals built on trust and for consistent support provided for their individual needs. This should guide the behaviour of professionals”. We understand this to mean all adults with positions of responsibility for children and all those responsible for the management and governance of the game.
Key Concept – “Early Help”	Working Together 2015 encourages all agencies to provide ‘Early help’ – “Early help means providing support as soon as a problem emerges...from the foundation years through to the teenage years.” It follows that we must act on any concerns about a child without delay, whether the child is in need of help or in need of protection, and it is not for us to assess which.

## Key Definitions and Concepts

Key Concept - “Child Protection”	Child protection is one part of safeguarding and promoting welfare. It refers to the activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm as a result of maltreatment. Effective child protection is essential as part of the wider work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. However, all agencies and individuals should proactively aim to safeguard and promote the welfare of children so that the need for action to protect children from harm is reduced.
“Abuse”	For definitions of the different types of abuse, and common indicators of abuse please see Section 2.



## Glossary of Other Terms

Children's Social Care	The services formerly known as Social Services, (however the name may vary around the country)
CPSU	Child Protection in Sport Unit
CRB	The former Criminal Records Bureau (who provided 'CRB' checks until December 2012.) Now part of the DBS.
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service (Organisation formed in 2012 by the merger of the former Criminal Records Bureau and Independent Safeguarding Authority)
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board Limited
ECB ACO	England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials
ECBCA	England and Wales Cricket Board Coaches Association
ISA	The former Independent Safeguarding Authority. Now part of the DBS.
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer (in England only)
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board
NSPCC	National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Staff/Volunteer/ Official/Team Manager and so on	A variety of titles have been used within this document to describe people working in cricket, such as 'staff', 'official', 'volunteer', 'team manager' and so on. This policy applies either directly, or indirectly, to all individuals working within cricket according to their level of contact with children in cricket. If you have any doubt as to its relevance to your role please contact the ECB Safeguarding Team
Match Official	Umpires and scorers (whether members of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials or not) who are appointed by the relevant authority
Regulated Activity	Regulated Activity involves training, teaching, instructing, supervising or caring for a child on a frequent or intensive basis in an unsupervised capacity. See ECB Guidance 'How To Determine Which Roles Are 'Regulated Activity With Children In Cricket'
Regulated Activity Provider (RAP)	The cricket organisation (such as County Boards, leagues, panels and clubs) that appoints people to roles that undertake regulated activity
Supervision	For an individual deemed to be carrying out 'Regulated Activity' to be considered to be supervised, another individual, also carrying out Regulated Activity AND who has been ECB vetted, must be able to see and hear the interactions between the individual and the child/ren AT ALL TIMES IN ALL SESSIONS. Two equal status people cannot supervise each other.

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