

Affiliation

# ECB guide to club affiliation

Making cricket a game for everyone

Cricket should be a game for everyone. Your club is key to making this happen by creating a safe, inclusive and welcoming space where people can enjoy our game.



FOR YOUR  
CLUB



The  
Cricket  
Collective

Making cricket happen



## What is Affiliation?

Affiliation is the formal process by which a club becomes part of the organised cricket community overseen by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), which is the national governing body for cricket in England and Wales.

Clubs affiliate by paying a small fee to their local Recreational Cricket Board (RCB), in return for which they gain access to a range of benefits only available to affiliated clubs. Affiliating clubs are also asked to confirm their commitment to following certain rules and standards set by the ECB, most of which clubs will already be familiar with.

### WHY AFFILIATE?

#### Benefits

Join over **5,000 clubs** and unlock the following benefits:

Benefit	What you get
<b>Club Support</b>	Access to guidance and expert advice from your RCB
<b>Training</b>	Courses, qualifications, and development opportunities
<b>Resources</b>	Management tools and systems
<b>Competitions</b>	Access to ECB competitions, club programmes and leagues
<b>Funding</b>	Chance to apply for funding e.g. loans & grants
<b>Community</b>	Events, celebrations, and networking
<b>ECB Accreditation</b>	Opportunity for recognition through the Club Development Framework

#### Creating safer, more inclusive cricket for everyone

By accepting the Conditions of Affiliation, clubs cement their commitment to following ECB rules regarding conduct and welfare. By affiliating, your club is proactively improving people's experience in recreational cricket and helping cricket to become the most inclusive team sport in England and Wales.

## QUICK START SUMMARY

How to get affiliated in three simple steps.

# 1

### Prepare (Before Affiliation)

What to do	Why	Time needed
<b>Review club constitution</b>	You'll need to add ECB commitments	<b>45-60 mins</b>
<b>Appoint Safeguarding Officer*</b>	Required for Safe Hands Policy	<b>15 mins</b>
<b>Plan member communication</b>	All participants must agree to ECB rules	<b>20-30 mins</b>

\*All Club Safeguarding Officers should have completed the ECB Safe hands course

# 2

### Affiliate & Commit

- ✓ Accept the conditions of affiliation when you affiliate with your Recreational Cricket Board
- ✓ Make your affiliation payment to your Recreational Cricket Board (or Cricket League)

# 3

### Implement (After Affiliation)

Priority	Action	Deadline
● <b>High</b>	Update constitution with ECB commitments	<b>Within 30 days</b>
● <b>High</b>	Register on Safe Hands Management System	<b>Within 30 days</b>
● <b>Medium</b>	Get all participants to agree to ECB rules	<b>Ongoing</b>
● <b>Medium</b>	Set up discipline checking for new joiners	<b>Within 60 days</b>

## THE CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION AT A GLANCE

### 1. Anti-Discrimination & Conduct

- ▶ Be a club where everyone belongs.

### 2. Accept Authority

- ▶ Work with us to uphold standards.

### 3. Participant Agreement

- ▶ Everyone plays their part.

### 4. Participant Jurisdiction

- ▶ We all help keep cricket fair.

### 5. Safe Hands Policy

- ▶ Prioritise member welfare.

### 6. SHMS Registration

- ▶ Use our safeguarding system.

### 7. Recognise Sanctions

- ▶ Respect decisions across the game.

### 8. Future Rules

- ▶ We evolve together.



### NEED HELP?

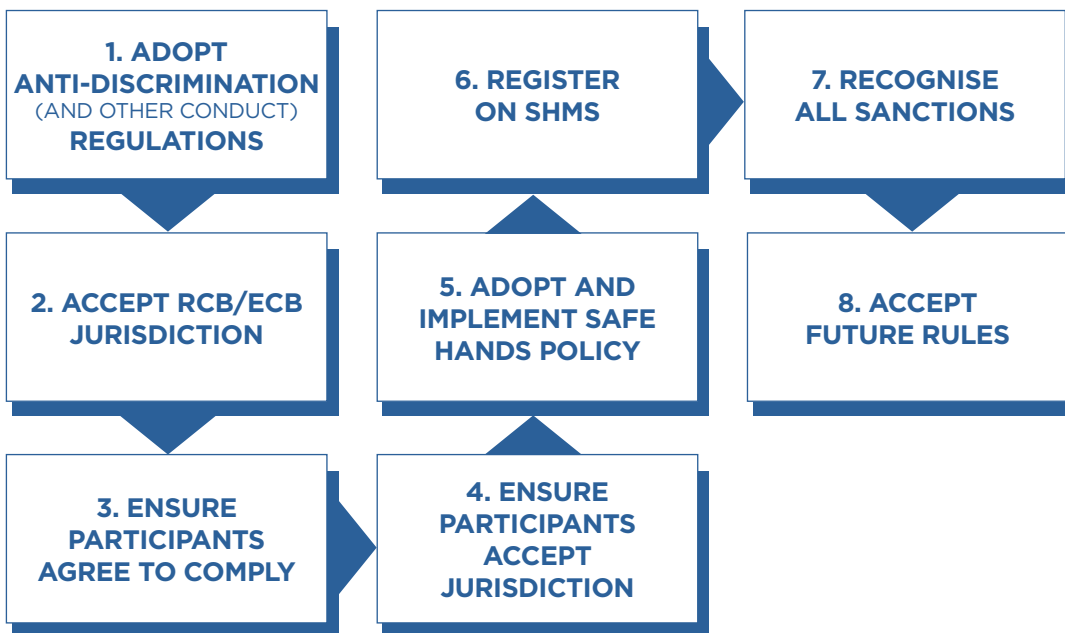
Contact your Recreational Cricket Board for support with any step.





## CONDITIONS OF AFFILIATION

As part of the affiliation process, clubs are required to accept the eight Conditions of Affiliation set by the ECB (in addition to any other requirements of their Cricket Board, such as paying an affiliation fee).



Each of the conditions are set out below with an accompanying explanation. Practical suggestions for how your club can evidence that it has complied with the conditions are provided.

### Condition ONE: Anti-Discrimination & Conduct Rules

**ADOPT AND ENFORCE THE ECB ANTI-DISCRIMINATION REGULATIONS (ADR) AND COMPLY WITH THE OBLIGATIONS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS SET OUT UNDER THE ECB GENERAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL CRICKET (GCR), THE ECB RECREATIONAL CONDUCT REGULATIONS (RCR) AND ANY OTHER CONDUCT/DISCIPLINARY RULES OR REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE CLUB.**

#### What you must do:

- ✓ Adopt the ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations (ADRs)
- ✓ Enforce the ADRs within your club
- ✓ Follow the General Conduct Regulations (GCRs)
- ✓ Follow the Recreational Conduct Regulations (RCRs) - whenever these apply to you

#### How to show compliance:

Action	Example
Update Constitution	Add commitment to the ADRs in your club constitution
Disciplinary Process	Deal with discrimination via club procedures
Rule Compliance	Follow the GCRs and your local league's competition regulations

## Condition TWO: Accept Authority

**ACCEPT THE JURISDICTION OF YOUR RECREATIONAL CRICKET BOARD AND/OR THE ECB/CRICKET REGULATOR (AS APPLICABLE) TO ENFORCE THE ADR, THE GCR AND THE RCR AGAINST THE CLUB AND ITS PARTICIPANTS (E.G., PLAYERS, COACHES, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, DIRECTORS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, MEMBERS, MATCH OFFICIALS, VOLUNTEERS AND ANY OTHER PERSONS YOUR CLUB EXERCISES CONTROL OVER)**

### What this means:

Your club accepts that the Recreational Cricket Board can investigate and impose sanctions on your club and its participants for breaches of the ADRs, GCRs and RCRs. Your club also accepts the ability of the ECB/Cricket Regulator to do the same – this is necessary because the GCRs and RCRs allow certain cases and appeals to be referred to the ECB/Cricket Regulator.

### WHO'S INCLUDED IN 'PARTICIPANTS'?

Players & Coaches

Committee Members  
& Officers

Employees & Members

Match Officials &  
Volunteers

Contractors  
& Spectators\*

\*Only those your club has control over. For example, if your ground forms part of a public park, you are unlikely to be able to stop members of the public from spectating, and therefore such spectators would not be under your control.

## Condition THREE: Participant Agreement

**ENSURE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ADR, GCR, RCR AND THE ECB'S SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS (OR ANY SUCCESSOR THEREOF).**

### Your responsibility as a club:

Use reasonable endeavours to ensure ALL participants agree to follow ECB's conduct and welfare rules.

### IMPLEMENTATION METHODS



#### Membership Forms

Add a clause to your joining paperwork e.g. **"By joining [Club Name], you agree to comply with the ECB Anti-Discrimination Regulations, General Conduct Regulations, Recreational Conduct Regulations, and Safeguarding Regulations. You accept that each of [RCB name] and the ECB/Cricket Regulator can take action to enforce these Regulations, as applicable."**



#### Communications

Include reminders in emails/newsletters about regulatory responsibilities. See the Club Affiliation Toolkit for suggested templates.



#### Notice Boards

Post notices in high-traffic areas:

- Changing rooms
- Club entrance
- Social and spectator areas



### KEY POINT

League decisions remain with leagues - Cricket Boards don't override them.



## Condition FOUR: Participant Jurisdiction

**ENSURE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO ACCEPT THE JURISDICTION OF YOUR RECREATIONAL CRICKET BOARD AND/OR THE ECB/CRICKET REGULATOR (AS APPLICABLE) TO ENFORCE THE ADR, THE GCR, THE RCR AND THE ECB'S SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS (OR ANY SUCCESSOR THEREOF).**

### What participants must accept:

That Cricket Boards and the ECB/Cricket Regulator can take disciplinary action against them. This goes hand in glove with asking participants to agree to comply with the ECB's conduct rules.

### Implementation:

Use the same methods as for Condition 3 - the example wording for club membership forms covers both conditions.

## Condition FIVE: Safe Hands Policy

**ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT THE ECB'S SAFE HANDS POLICIES.**

The Safe Hands Policy and Safeguarding Adults Policy are the ECB's policy documents for safeguarding children and adults at risk in cricket in England and Wales. It is mandatory for affiliating clubs to adopt and implement these policies to ensure they create a safe and inclusive environment for all people.

### What you must do:

Follow this two-step process:

- 1 ADOPT**
  - ✓ Update your club constitution to include a commitment to follow the ECB's Safe Hands Policy or utilise the ECB Safeguarding Policy Statement template (see the Club Affiliation Toolkit for Club Constitution and Safeguarding Policy Statement templates)

- 2 IMPLEMENT**

Requirement	Action Needed
<b>Commitment</b>	Club Safeguarding Officer on committee
<b>Right Culture</b>	Follow Safe Hands guidance and Kit Bag
<b>Safer Recruitment</b>	Proper DBS checks and recruitment processes
<b>Reporting</b>	Report concerns to your RCB Safeguarding Officer

Please refer to the Safe Hands Kit bag to ensure adherence to the Safe Hands Policy.



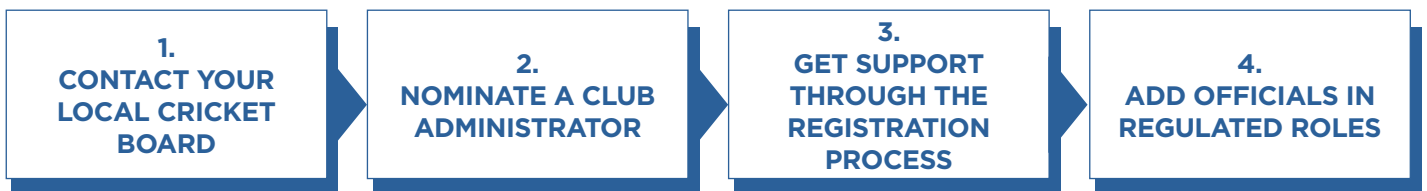
**Condition SIX:**  
SHMS Registration

**BEING REGISTERED ON THE ECB'S SAFEGUARDING MANAGEMENT TOOL,  
THE SAFE HANDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

**What is SHMS?**

The Safe Hands Management System is an online platform for managing safeguarding records. It allows clubs to track vital information like DBS checks and safeguarding & coaching qualifications for their members, thereby creating a single, central record to monitor compliance and support safe environments for all participants.

**How to register on SHMS:**



**Condition SEVEN:**  
Recognise All Sanctions

**RECOGNISE AND GIVE EFFECT TO:**

- a. any penalty or sanction imposed under the GCRs or the RCRs by another cricket organisation;
- b. any penalty or sanction imposed by the ECB (including by the Cricket Discipline Panel, or any successor thereof);
- c. any decision or outcome imposed under the ECB's Safeguarding Regulations (or any successor thereof); and...
- d. any penalty or sanction imposed by the International Cricket Council ("ICC"), any other ICC Member Country or any national or international anti-doping authority, to the extent that the penalty or sanction is also recognised by the ECB and of which you are notified or otherwise become aware of.

**What this means:** You must respect bans/sanctions from:



**Practical Examples:**

- ✗ A professional player banned for match-fixing can't coach at your club.
- ✗ A player with a 3-week ban earned in one competition can't switch to a different team or competition to evade serving that ban.
- ✓ Check Play-Cricket discipline logs for new joiners.

**Compliance Checklist:**

- ✓ Check new players against discipline logs
- ✓ Include confirmation in joining paperwork that participant is not subject to any sanctions
- ✓ Stay alert to notifications about sanctions
- ✓ If in doubt about whether an international sanction is recognised by the ECB, please contact your Cricket Board.

## Condition EIGHT: Future Rules

**ADOPT, COMPLY WITH AND ENFORCE (AS REQUIRED), AND ACCEPT THE JURISDICTION OF YOUR RECREATIONAL CRICKET BOARD AND/OR THE ECB/CRICKET REGULATOR TO ENFORCE, SUCH OTHER RULES AND REGULATIONS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE ECB FROM TIME TO TIME.**

### What this covers:

Automatic acceptance of new ECB regulations without clubs having to re-sign the Conditions of Affiliation during the season.

### Why it exists:

- Allows urgent safety regulations to come into force without delay
- Prevents delays in mid-season rule changes that would benefit the game

### ECB reassurance:

The ECB is committed to providing maximum notice for new regulations wherever possible. It is not anticipated that the ECB would have to introduce urgent regulations mid-season except in the most exceptional circumstances. Furthermore, the newly established Recreational Game Working Group - which is made up of representatives from clubs and leagues in the recreational game - provides a vital voice in the development and review of regulatory matters, ensuring the views of clubs and leagues are considered before regulations are introduced.



## NEED HELP

### Contact your Recreational Cricket Board for:

- ✓ SHMS registration support
- ✓ Safeguarding guidance
- ✓ General compliance questions
- ✓ Implementation advice

## KEY DOCUMENTS REFERENCE

Document	Purpose	Access
<b>Anti-Discrimination Regulations</b>	Preventing discrimination	<b>ECB website</b>
<b>Safe Hands Policy</b>	Child safeguarding	<b>ECB website</b>
<b>Safe Hands Kit Bag</b>	Implementation guidance and resources	<b>ECB website</b>
<b>General Conduct Regulations</b>	Conduct regulations	<b>ECB website</b>
<b>Recreational Conduct Regulations</b>	Conduct regulations	<b>ECB website</b>
<b>Play-Cricket.com</b>	Discipline log checks	<b>Play-Cricket Website</b>

