

WILTSHIRE CRICKET

PRE SEASON SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER 2026



WELCOME

Forget the Ashes, forget the T20 World Cup, a summer of cricket is just around the corner. We hope that this newsletter finds everyone preparing for the new season and that there is good weather ahead.

DIGITAL VERIFICATION FOR DBS

To make verification easier and more accessible, the ECB will be introducing Digital Verification into the DBS process in 2026 as part of their ongoing commitment to improvement. A Digital Verification is an electronic record that meets DBS identity requirements.

This new option will result in the following:

- **Faster results and remote convenience:** Results are delivered online, enabling quicker completion of DBS checks without the need to present physical documents or meet a verifier in person
- **Greater data accuracy:** Digital verification helps ensure information is correct from the start
- **Equivalent to paper-based checks:** Digital Verification provides a fully valid alternative, meeting DBS requirements just as traditional paper checks do
- **Time saver for Club & County verifiers:**

Applicants can complete the entire application independently, without requiring action from a club verifier. Please note there will be a small fee for applicants who choose the Digital Verification option. Those who prefer an in-person check (for example, at their local cricket club) may continue to do so

DBS UPDATE – IDENTITY CHECK TERMS:

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) team has revised its identity-check terms to add “personal friend” as a category of candidate whose DBS **cannot** be verified by someone who is a personal friend.

The ECB recognise that asking a volunteer to verify the ID of a personal friend can present a potential risk. That risk is mitigated by the training and support provided through the Safe Hands Course and by County Safeguarding Officers.

In many recreational cricket clubs’ volunteers know one another personally. To avoid creating barriers to completing DBS checks, attendance at the Safe Hands Course is required so volunteers can carry out checks correctly and safely. When a verifier knows the candidate, the established procedures and training should ensure checks are completed appropriately and risks are managed. If a verifier feels uncomfortable checking an individual’s documents, they should decline and refer the check to another verifier or to their County Safeguarding Officer.

01/03



Contact the Cricket
Regulator

safeguarding@crick
etregulator.co.uk

UPDATES TO THE SAFETY IN CRICKET REGULATIONS & GUIDELINES

Neck protectors, ball throwers & bowling machines

The ECB circulated their updated Safety Regulations and Guidelines on 17th December and the below message from the ECB's Safety in Cricket Officer highlights the main updates.

Please share with your club chair, coaches and junior sections.

The ECB was deeply saddened to learn about the death of a young cricketer in Australia in October 2025, who it is understood was struck in the neck from a ball delivered by a ball thrower (sometimes known as a 'dog stick'). In light of this tragic event the ECB has reviewed its relevant safety regulations and policies, and is making the following updates:

- All cricketers are strongly advised to wear neck protectors at all times that they are required or recommended to wear helmets.
- It is recommended that ball throwers and bowling machines are only operated by adults who are suitably experienced, competent, and familiar with their safe operation. Bowling machines and ball throwers should not be operated by U18s.
- New Safety Guidelines for Training Environments have been created. These cover:
 - Safe set up and operation of net facilities
 - Operation of bowling machines
 - Use of ball throwers

The full updated Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations and new Safety Guidelines for Training Environments (found within the wider Recreational Cricket Safety Guidelines) can be viewed using the links below:

[Recreational-Cricket-Safety-Guidelines-Dec-2025-Update.pdf](#)

[Recreational Cricket Safety Regulations 15.12.25](#)

Safe Hands Guidance

The Cricket Regulator Safeguarding Team are constantly reviewing and updating the Safe Hands Policy, Guidance and Template documents, available in the Safe Hands Kit Bag.

This set of resources contains two useful and pro-active safeguarding guides for clubs:

- Recreational Club Safeguarding Self Assessment Report June 2025 – covering Policy & Risk Management, Safer Culture, People and Compliance and Listening.
- Creating a Safe, Welcoming, and Inclusive Environment

We would recommend that you download the above documents to review and action within your club prior to the 2026 season.

A full list of updated guidance and policy templates can be found on the ECB website [here](#).

WeCare – Welfare and Well-being Support



Club Safeguarding Officers can now access medical, mental health and well-being support through Canada Life WeCare. This is an excellent, free and entirely confidential support scheme that the ECB are providing for the Club and County Safeguarding Officer network.

The provision will also be available for immediate family members. Please contact me for further information and access.

WILTSHIRE CRICKET'S STRATEGY 2025-2029: BEYOND BOUNDARIES: POWERING CRICKET'S FUTURE

The new four-year strategy

"BEYOND BOUNDARIES: POWERING CRICKET'S FUTURE,"

sets out our vision, mission, values, and objectives for the future. This strategy reflects our collective ambition to make cricket the most accessible and enjoyed sport in Wiltshire.

Safeguarding, inclusion, equity and diversity are key elements of the strategy, driving cricket in Wiltshire towards a culture that welcomes all into its community.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

If you are a Club Safeguarding Officer, Coach, Activator, Official, Scorer, Committee Member, Captain or a parent there is a course available for you.

The new suite of safeguarding courses are detailed below:

- Safeguarding Level 1 – SGL1 (previously ECB Safeguarding Induction) This free course is available for everyone involved in cricket and anybody at your club or organisation can complete it online.
- Safeguarding Level 2 – SGL2 (previously Safeguarding for Specialist roles) A free 1-hour interactive online course with an assessment for everyone in a specialist role.

Please note, this has moved to one course, and "bolts on" have been removed.

Mandatory for: CSO's – Coaches – Activators – Scorers

Safeguarding Level 3 – SGL3 (Club Safeguarding Officers & DBS Identity Verifiers) A 3-hour face to face workshop led by an ECB trained tutor:

- a) ECB Safe Hands Workshop (Recreational Game)
- b) Safeguarding in the Talent Pathway (Performance Pathway / Professional Game)

For more information, please contact Karen Smith

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Safeguarding Training Matrix

The Safeguarding Training Matrix is a useful reference document that clarifies what roles at your club need what Safeguarding training and also who needs an ECB DBS check.

[Safeguarding-Training-Matrix.pdf](#)



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