



England Cricket Association for the Deaf Safeguarding Policy Statement

England Cricket Association for the Deaf (ECAD) is committed to ensuring all Children (i.e all persons under the age of 18) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the ECB's:

- "Safe Hands" manual
- Guidance on "Safeguarding & a Club's Duty of Care"

We will do this by:

- Recognising all children participating in cricket (regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, ability or disability) have the right to have fun and be protected from harm in a safe environment
- Ensuring individuals working within cricket at, or for, our association provide a welcoming, safe, and fun experience for children
- Adopting and implementing the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children"
- Appointing a Welfare Officer and ensuring they attend training modules,
- Ensuring all people who work in cricket at, or for, our association (such as staff, officials, volunteers, team managers, coaches and so on) understand how the "Safe Hands Policy" applies to them
- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the association are recruited and appointed in accordance with ECB guidelines and relevant legislation
- Ensuring all individuals working within cricket at, or for, the association are provided with support, through education and training, so they are aware of, and can adhere to, good practice and Code of Conduct guidelines defined by ECAD
- Ensuring the name and contact details of the Welfare Officer is available:
 - As the first point of contact for parents, children and volunteers/staff within the association
 - As a local source of procedural advice for the association, its committee and members
 - As the main point of contact within the club for relevant external agencies in connection with child safeguarding
- Ensuring correct and comprehensive reporting procedures exist for raising and managing child safeguarding concerns.
- Providing an environment where the views of children, parents and volunteers are sought and welcomed on a range of issues. This will help us create an environment where people have the opportunity to voice any concerns (about possible suspected child abuse/neglect, and/or about poor practice) to the Welfare Officer
- Ensuring all suspicions concerns and allegations are taken seriously and dealt with swiftly and appropriately
- Ensuring access to confidential information relating to child safeguarding matters is restricted to those who need to know in order to safeguard children – including the Welfare Officer and the appropriate external authorities, such as the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

ECAD also follows the The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Guidance on Welcoming and Safeguarding children with a disability as outlined below

The ECB is responsible for all cricket in England and Wales and has set out a clear vision to become, and remain, the world's leading Governing Body in providing access to cricket for disabled people.

We are committed to ensuring cricket is open, and accessible, to all members of the community and they are supported to achieve their potential in any capacity whether as a player, employee, volunteer, coach or official. This principle applies regardless of, age, race, disability, ability, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation or background.

Many children with disabilities or special needs can be welcomed into the game with a sensible approach that involves talking with the child and his or her parents about what their abilities are and what they may need some assistance or different arrangement with (sometimes referred to as 'making reasonable adjustments')

Children with disabilities are children first, and need to enjoy opportunities and experiences open to all children in a safe environment. The ECB is committed to supporting disabled children to be fully involved in cricket through the provision of a range of activities, training and supportive good practice guidance. To help achieve this in cricket we are committed to supporting cricket club personnel including coaches, officials and other volunteers to ensure they are inclusive of, and safeguard, children with disabilities.

The ECB is aware the most valuable resource within clubs are the staff and volunteers who appreciate the value of cricket for disabled children and are supported to develop the confidence, will, and desire, to ensure they can become fully integrated members of the cricket family.

In the first instance, the club should discuss the child's needs and abilities with the child and his or her parents/carers. For many children with a disability, parents and carers will be able to offer practical advice on adaptations or arrangements that can be made to enable their child to participate.

It is good practice to agree a support plan with the parents and the child, and to review this regularly. The club welfare officer should be involved. It may be necessary or useful to involve the child and the parent / carer in the plan itself, if this will help meet the child's needs and allow them to participate.

Remember, many children may have hidden disabilities (or special needs) – such as an autistic spectrum disorder, or deafness, or another condition that is not obvious. It is important during the registration process and/or welcome meeting to offer the opportunity for parents to meet someone in private to discuss their child, if they would like to do so. This forms part of our 'Welcoming' approach for all children, including those with disabilities.

Children with disabilities have particular vulnerability to abuse and neglect – club personnel should be aware of these, see <https://thecpsu.org.uk/resource-library/?topic=1148>