



Coalpit Heath Cricket Club

CHCC Youth Cricket Policies 2023

Coalpit Heath Cricket Club (CHCC) is committed to ensuring that all Children (*) participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience. This document details the policies for CHCC's youth section. Please retain this document for your records and read it, so that you fully understand what you can expect from the Club, and what the Club can expect from you.

** The term child or children should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18.*

In order to comply with CHCC policy and GCF Safeguarding Regulations, all children under the age of 18 years must be registered through the online Youth Registration Form on return after the first indoor or outdoor net session. No players can represent CHCC without registering. Unregistered players attending any net sessions must be accompanied by their parent until registration has been completed.

1. Data protection

- The Club will use the information provided on the youth registration form (together with other information it obtains about the player) to administer his/her cricketing activity at the Club, and in any activities in which he/she participates through the Club, and to care for and supervise activities in which he/she is involved. In some cases this may require the Club to disclose the information to County Boards, Leagues and to the England and Wales Cricket Board.
- In the event of a medical issue or child protection issue arising, the Club may disclose certain information to doctors or other medical specialists, and/or to police, children's social care, the Courts and/or probation officers, and potentially to legal and other advisers involved in an investigation. The person completing the youth registration form must ensure that each person whose information you include in the form knows what will happen to their information and how it may be disclosed.

2. Club Changing Policy

- All parents must be aware that children under the age of 18 should not share changing and showering facilities with adults. The club requests that parents ensure that their child who is playing in senior matches arrives already changed in their kit and showers at home after the match. It is also all parents' responsibility to ensure their child does not enter the changing room whilst adult players are changing and showering.
- During youth coaching and youth matches, the changing and showering facilities at CHCC will be for the exclusive use of the youth players and adult members will not be allowed to enter the changing rooms while youth players are using the facility.

3. Transport to Matches and Practice Sessions

- Parents / Carers are responsible for the safe delivery and collection of their child for matches and training. Before the start of the season away fixtures will be available so that there is an opportunity for parents / carers to make appropriate arrangements.
- Coaches and Club Staff will not be responsible for the children in their care when on the Club premises, or on arrival at opponents' cricket grounds.
- It is not the responsibility of the Coach or Team Manager to transport or arrange to transport the children to and from the Club or match.

4. Photographic Images & Video Policy

- Photographs / images are not to be taken at matches or training without the prior permission of the parents / carers of the children. **Consent must be given by confirmation on the online Youth Registration Form 2023 by each child's parent / guardian.**

- The children should be informed that a person will be taking photographs.
- The children should be informed that if they have concerns they can report these to the coach or team manager.
- Concerns regarding inappropriate or intrusive photography should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer and recorded in the same manner as any other child protection concern.
- Photographs of your child may appear in the local press, CHCC website, CHCC Social media sites (e.g. Facebook etc) and league handbooks (we try to ensure that names do not appear next to the photos).
- Where possible the club will ask for parental permission to use your child's image and wherever possible show the image to the parents and child in advance. This ensures that they are aware of the way the image will be used to represent cricket and the club.
- The club will only use images of children in appropriate kit (training or competition), to reduce the risk of inappropriate use, and to provide positive images of the children.
- The club operates CCTV in the clubhouse and grounds for security purposes. Images are only used in connection with a criminal investigation or when requested for police purposes.
- The club will encourage the reporting of inappropriate use of images of children.
- If you are concerned, report your concerns to the Club Safeguarding Officer.

5. Managing children away from the club

The Team Manager / Youth Coach will communicate the following information to parent(s):

- Why the trip is planned – its reason / purpose.
- When the trip will take place – date, times, including time of departure and estimated time of return.
- Where the trip is to – destination, venue.
- Meeting points – at the home and/or the away venue as appropriate.
- Staffing arrangements – name and contact details for the Team Manager responsible for the trip.
- Kit / equipment requirements.
- Cost implications – i.e. competition fee, spending / pocket money, any cost of transport.
- Name and contact number of the person acting as the 'Club Home Contact'.
- Arrangements for food and drink.
- Team Managers must have up to date emergency contact details and relevant medical information with them during the away trip for all children who are taking part for whom they have a duty of care. It is the parent / carers responsibility to ensure up to date details have been provided via the Youth Registration Form and any changes to these details are given to the coaches, team managers or Club Safeguarding Officer

6. Missing Children Policy

A child going missing could be an extremely traumatic event – for adults and for children. However, if everyone is aware of some simple pre-defined guidelines, panic levels can be minimised, and even more critically, the missing child can hopefully be found in an organised and efficient way. Hopefully no child will ever go missing from a club team / event. If they do, please remember most children are found within a few minutes of their disappearance.

- Coaches or Managers should ensure the other children in the club's care are looked after appropriately while a search for the child concerned is organised.
- The club should inform the child's parents if they are present at the event, or nominate an appropriate person to telephone them and advise them of the concern.
- The club will organise all available responsible adults by areas to be searched.
- The area in which the child has gone missing will be searched including changing rooms, toilets, public and private areas and the club grounds.
- It will be requested that all those searching report back to a nominated adult at a specific meeting point.
- This nominated person should remain at this specific reference point and must be making a note of the events, including detailing a physical description of the child including approx. height, build, hair and eye colour as well as clothing the child was wearing and where / when they were last seen, as this will be required by the police. If the search is unsuccessful you should then report the concern to the police.
- A report should go to the police no later than 20 minutes after the child's disappearance is noted, even if the search is not complete.
- If the police recommend further action before they get involved, follow their guidance.
- If the police act upon the concern, always be guided by them in any further actions to take.
- At any stage when the child is located, the appropriate adult must inform all adults involved including the parents, searchers and police if they are by then involved.

- All missing child incidents will be notified at the very earliest opportunity to the Club Safeguarding Officer, who must immediately notify the County Safeguarding Officer.

7. Children Playing in Senior Matches

CHCC recognise that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club.

- This duty of care has been interpreted in two ways in adult matches:
- Not to place a youth player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that youth player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against senior players.
- In addition the following specific ECB requirements apply to youth players in senior matches:
- All youth players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. Parental consent not to wear a helmet will not be accepted in senior matches. A youth player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player they are running for is not doing so.
- The current ECB fielding regulations must be adhered to and enforced by the umpires and captain. The umpires are empowered by these fielding regulations to stop the game immediately if a youth player comes within the restricted distance.
- The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in an senior match who are in the Under 18 age group or younger even if the player is not a fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder.
- Any youth player in the Under 13 age group (and above) must have consent from a parent or guardian (confirmed through Youth Registration form) before participating in open age (senior) matches. Guidance related to changing and showering must be adhered to.
- Players in the U12 age group (and below) are not allowed to play competitive (league) cricket with seniors. This applies with or without written permission from parents or guardians.
- The club can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of youth players in open age (adult) matches at the discretion of the (senior) selection committee.
- It is strongly recommended that a parent or appointed guardian is present whenever a youth player in the Under 13 age group plays in an open age (senior) match. This could include the captain or other identified senior player taking responsibility for the youth player.

8. Anti-Bullying Policy

We are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children so they can train and play in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our club. If bullying does occur (including through Social Media e.g. Facebook etc), all children should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. We are a 'TELLING club'. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff and officials.

- **All incidents must be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer.**
- **In cases of serious bullying, the incidents will be reported to the ECB Child Protection Team for advice via the County Safeguarding Officer.**
- Parents will be informed and will be asked to come to a meeting to discuss the matter.
- If necessary and appropriate, police will be consulted.
- The bullying behaviour or threats of bullying must be investigated and the bullying stopped quickly.
- **An attempt will be made to help the bully (or bullies) change their behaviour. Should behaviours not change, the club will seek further advice considering further action.**
- In addition no comments may be posted on social media sites which are detrimental to leagues, officials, clubs, players or the game in general.

9. Supervision of Youth Players

Parents remain responsible for the supervision of their child during net practice and matches at all times and are encouraged to remain at the club or away club whilst their child is participating in cricket. If this is not possible, it is the responsibility of parents to nominate another responsible adult (loco parentis) who is willing to supervise their child in their absence. Our youth coaches cannot be responsible for the sole supervision of youth players.

10. Bad Behaviour

Hardball cricket involves risk, and it is important that players and coaches are focused fully on the game, both in training and matches, whether actively involved or not. Any behaviour by a youth player that is deemed to be unsafe, distracting or a nuisance to other players or coaches will not be tolerated during net practice or matches. Parents will be informed of any incidents by the Coach or Club Safeguarding Officer so that a solution can be agreed for future practice sessions and matches.

To ensure the safety of those involved, and fairness of opportunity to all, the following rules to manage bad behaviour will be applied:

- Single incident in a session. The youth player will sit out part of a session with timeouts or yellow cards being given for one off instances of bad behaviour if a youth player is rude, disruptive or using offensive language.
- Prolonged bad behaviour in a session. Will incur exclusion from the next training session or matches with parents receiving an email to explain.
- Serious incident, recurring or prolonged bad behaviour over a number of sessions. Whilst every effort will be made to avoid this stage, if it is reached then the parents and the youth player will be informed and the matter will be referred to the Management Committee. In the event of a serious incident involving any youth player, advice will be sought from the GCF Safeguarding Team. Sanctions may involve suspension from training and matches for the remainder of the season, or even expulsion from the club. CHCC has a disciplinary procedure in its constitution which will be implemented.

11. Outdoor Practice Nets

The outdoor nets will be available for use from approximately April to September each year. In order to protect the nets from damage and ensure fair use for all club members of CHCC guidelines will be issued by the committee; however the following must be adhered to:

- Safe net practice *must* be observed at all times
- Metal Spiked footwear must not be worn at any time on the batting area.
- Helmets **must** be worn by all youth players whilst facing hard balls.
- Appropriate protective kit (pads, gloves etc) must be worn whilst batting in the nets.
- Batsmen must avoid tapping their bats firmly as prolonged tapping will cause excessive wear at the crease on the matting.
- No climbing on the netting.
- Only members of CHCC may use the nets.
- All kit bags to be left outside the nets area and away to the side of the nets.
- Litter is to be placed in the litter bins.
- Maintain awareness of player and ball movements at all times
- All instructions of club coaches and officials must be adhered to at all times

12. First Aid Policy

All coaches have had training in First Aid and at least one qualified First Aider is present at all matches and training sessions. There is a well-equipped First Aid box situated on the club veranda, alongside an emergency defibrillator.

- In an emergency situation and in the absence of parents, the club may act in 'loco parentis', if the need arises for the administration of emergency first aid and/or other medical treatment which, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, may be necessary. In such an occurrence all reasonable steps will be taken to contact the parent or the alternative adult. However for the safeguarding and welfare of a child, First Aid may need to be administered without prior consent in order to preserve a child's health and well-being
- In the event of a serious incident and when a child needs to be taken to hospital, a nominated responsible adult (coach, First Aider etc) will accompany the child if the child's parent cannot be contacted. All efforts will be made to contact a parent. If this is not possible, CHCC have the right to act in the best interest of any child in the event of injury or illness
- It is the responsibility of parents to disclose any known medical conditions of their child on the Youth Registration Form and to have available any preventative medication prescribed to their child i.e. inhaler, Epipen, insulin etc
- **If parents do not give consent to 'loco parentis' they MUST accompany and remain with their child during every match and training session; and remain responsible for their child AT ALL TIMES**