



Supervising Children at Cricket Sessions

Statement of Intent

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures and practical guidance for all Lincolnshire Cricket employees, agents, volunteers, and other professionals and or partners working alongside Lincolnshire to safeguard children (*) within cricket.

(*The word "children" should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18yrs)

Introduction

It is important to remember when planning children's cricket or general sessions, sufficient adults must be present to adequately supervise all participants and manage any incident that may arise.

It is a basic requirement of all sessions and matches involving children **THAT IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES there will always be a minimum of TWO RESPONSIBLE ADULTS PRESENT.** Staff should always plan accordingly, and coaches must feel confident in raising concerns if they find themselves placed in a position where they have been expected to work alone and unsupervised. At matches there must always be at least 2 adults present and responsible for the team.

The ECB provides two different sets of ratios which relate to working with children and Lincolnshire Cricket have adopted the ECB guidelines in this instance. It is vital that coaches and other key personnel understand the distinction between these two types of ratios. They are explained below:

Qualified Coach Ratios Required for Coaching Sessions

The ECB Coach Education department has produced appropriate ratios based on the number of qualified coaches required to run different technical disciplines within the game. The ratios of qualified coaches to children are as follows:

- Net Coaching: 1 Coach: 8 Children
- Group Coaching: 1 Coach: 24 Children
- Hard Ball Coaching: 1 Coach: 16 Children
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Supervision Ratios

Supervision ratios relate to managing groups of children and ensuring that there are sufficient adults present to deal with any issue or incident that may arise. For single sex groups, there must be at least one same gender member of Staff. For mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female supervising adult.

There Must Always be a Minimum of Two Adults Present

Organisers must also factor in any further issues that the risk assessment of the facilities may have highlighted that are particular to that venue for example, changing rooms being located several minutes from the training venue and this may mean an increase in the number of supervisors is required.

The supervision ratios that must be adhered to as a minimum for groups of children are as follows:

Aged 8 and under - 1 adult to 8 Children

Aged 9 and over- 1 adult to 10 Children



It is also important to note that these ratios relate to adults and children i.e. those over the age of 18 looking after those under the age of 18. The ECB has recently developed an introductory course for young leaders and coaching assistants called “Cricket Activator Award”. Holders of this certificate must not be used in the calculations for supervision ratios as they are not over the age of 18.

As part of our responsibilities in supervising children, it is vitally important to ensure that all players drink appropriate amounts of water to avoid any possible risk of dehydration during matches and practice sessions.

The tips below are provided from the ECB’s Sports Science Home Study Pack for ECB UKCC Level 2 Coaching Cricket Qualification.

Wherever possible Coaches, Managers and Umpires are encouraged to:

- Ensure that regular intervals for drinks are arranged, particularly in matches of more than twenty overs per innings or in hot weather.
- Plan drinks breaks within practice sessions and matches every 20-40 minutes on warm sunny days (This may sound excessive when first read, but on hot days players can need up to 2-3 litres of liquid each to stay full hydrated)
- Avoid waiting for children to say that they are thirsty before planning drinks breaks, as thirst is an indication of dehydration.

Further details regarding keeping players hydrated can be found in the Sports Science Home Study Pack of the ECB UKCC Level 2 Coaching Cricket Qualification.

Facilities and Venues used for children’s cricket

Organisers must ensure that they have undertaken an adequate risk assessment on all facilities and venues used by Lincolnshire Cricket for activities regardless of ownership of that facility or venue. This does not include away match venues for leagues but should include, where possible, facilities and venues that will be used on tours.

It may be that facilities regularly hired by Lincolnshire Cricket from other organisations, i.e. schools or community colleges, may already have a risk assessment available for Lincolnshire Cricket to consider.

However, it is important that organisers recognise that they are responsible on behalf of Lincolnshire Cricket for ensuring that the venues and facilities are fit for the purpose.

Details on risk assessments can be found in the ECB Clubmark programme at www.ecb.co.uk/clubmark

Outcomes of the risk assessments may have an impact on the session planning or co-ordination of junior training and or matches and so it is important that risk assessments are done ahead of use and are updated on an annual basis or if changes to the facility have taken place.

(The above policy has been developed from ‘ECB Guidance on Supervising Children at cricket sessions from the Club “Safe Hands” Crickets Policy for Safeguarding Children)

