

ECB Regulations and Guidelines for Junior Cricketers in Open Age Cricket

The ECB has issued Regulations and Guidelines covering the selection and participation of Junior Cricketers in Open Age cricket.

This is to help clubs decide when to select Junior Cricketers and how best to support their cricketing development.

Put simply, the overall aim is to allow Junior Cricketers to develop in safety, but not to spoil the game for adults.

For the avoidance of doubt, these Regulations and Guidelines apply in all recreational cricket activities including not only indoor and outdoor games but also training and nets.

Notification

Team Captains and/or the responsible adult for the team, if the captain is Under 18 on the day of the match, must advise the umpires, on the team sheet, of the age of every player who is under the age of 20 on the day.

Note: Although 18- and 19-year-olds are not classified as Junior Cricketers, the ECB Fast bowling regulations apply to them.

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Eligibility

The club must have formal written parental approval for each player under 18 on the day of the match, confirming the individual can play in Open Age cricket. Any such approval must also be countersigned by the club's Safeguarding Officer.

A player must be aged 12 or above on the day of the match to be eligible to play in Open Age Cricket.

Very exceptionally, an 11-year-old may be eligible to play, subject to compliance with additional criteria.

It is not the responsibility of umpires to confirm the age of a player or the existence of approval documentation.

Disparity

The ECB has issued Regulations covering Disparity between players. This applies to cricketers of all ages. However, junior cricketers playing in open age group matches may be more liable to disparity.

Where the Umpires or the Club consider that the playing of a Junior Cricketer in Open Age Cricket is leading to situations of potential disparity where there is a concern regarding the safety or ability of a player (or players) to compete, the processes contained in the Disparity Regulations must be followed.

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