

To ECB ACO Scorers within Oxfordshire

Safeguarding and Scoring

You may have seen, in previous correspondence from David Elworthy, that DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) certification is to be removed for scorers, effective from 1st January 2024.

Contrary to other rumours this is not a cost cutting exercise by the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB), but it follows a comprehensive review of Regulated Activity by the ECB and taking independent legal advice, as well as consultation across other partners, it was concluded that the general role of Scorer does not meet the legal requirements for an Enhanced DBS¹.

Your existing DBS certificate will remain in place until it automatically expires. 30 days prior to expiration you will be contacted by ECB Safeguarding Team and asked to complete an on-line questionnaire on the role/s you undertake in cricket. This assessment will then guide you on whether you still require an Enhanced DBS for other roles you may fulfil.

An Enhanced DBS for any other roles does not cover your role as Scorer.² A DBS check is not protection. For years there has been a reliance on DBS checks. DBS is about Deployment and Environment.

Scorers will be required to undertake the online *Safeguarding for Specialist Role (SSR)* e-learning training every 3 years, which replaced Safeguarding Young Cricketers (SYC), and are encouraged to follow other safeguarding best practice guidance.³

The SSR course is for all those who have a specialist role in cricket including Coaches, Activators, Officials, Committee Members, Captains and Club Safeguarding Officers. You will need to complete the 'Safeguarding for Specialist Roles' first and then proceed to complete the appropriate bolt on module 'Safeguarding for Officials (Umpires and Scorers)'. The Safeguarding for Specialist Roles training should take around 1 hour to complete and the top up modules around 20 minutes.

Here is a link to the on-line training:

[Personal Information - Safeguarding For Umpires and Scorers \(ecb.co.uk\)](https://www.ecb.co.uk/personal-information/safeguarding-for-umpires-and-scorers)

Please take time to read the ECB best practice guidance in the [Safe Hands Kit Bag](#). Remember the "Rule of Two" – must ALWAYS be at least two adults present and responsible for each team of U18s. So, in a Scorebox or remote scoring location, i.e. not in close proximity of others at the ground, there must be a 'responsible adult' with any U18s as well as second scorer. The Scorer is not responsible for an U18 scorer and nor should they be alone with them in a Scorebox or remote scoring location.

A communication is being sent to the County Board, reminding them of the ECB best practice guidance. This is NOT a new initiative but has been in place for some time but in

¹ *Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 & Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.*

² *It is illegal to mandate a DBS check for non-regulated activity.*

³ *ECB Safeguarding Policies and Procedures – Kit Bag resources.*

many cases not adhered to. Many clubs are appointing youngsters as scorers and just leave them with the opposition scorer in the belief that they will look after them. This is not so. Clubs should have a responsible adult acting as *'in loco parentis'*⁴ either at home or when travelling away and parents or guardians do not accompany the child.⁵

If you find yourself in a position next season where an U18 scorer is left alone with you, and you are in a scoreboard or remote scoring location then speak to the opposition captain to enquire who is the responsible adult and whether they will be sitting with the youngster. If not, then other arrangements need to be made. This is for your own protection.

It is hoped that Leagues will direct any Clubs appointing an U18 scorer to notify the opposition scorer or club in advance and confirm the name of the responsible adult staying with the child.

Remember ***Safeguarding is EVERYONE's responsibility***. Scorers have not had clear guidelines and were left believing that a DBS certificate was sufficient. It became a way of thinking: a Culture. Responsibility was left to individuals.

⁴ *"In the place or role of a parent, as in a person acting in a parental capacity" – Legal Dictionary definition.*

⁵ *Managing Children Away from Club & Transporting Children to Cricket Activities – ECB Best Practice Guidance.*