



Gloucestershire County Cricket Club

Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Cricket

At Gloucestershire County Cricket Club we understand that a young player will see the opportunity to play in Open Age Cricket as the natural next step in their development. They may have peers who have already transitioned to this format of the game, but it is the responsibility of the player, parents/carers and the Club to ensure the environment is appropriate and the player is ready to make the step up to the open age format of the game.

The ECB regulations around when a player can play in Open Age Cricket are:

- 1) Junior Cricketers are not eligible to play Open Age Cricket until they are 12 years old. Written parental consent is also required.
- 2) In exceptional circumstances only, a player who:
 - (i) is 11 years old;
 - (ii) has started school year 7;
 - (iii) is selected for a squad in either County Age Group Cricket or a Sub-County Programme;
 - (iv) has written approval from their County Talent Pathway Lead; and
 - (v) has written parental consent,

is also eligible to play in Open Age Cricket.

In addition to the guidelines, It is essential clubs and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards young players in Open Age cricket. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways:

1) Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.

2) 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 adult players. In addition, the guidelines note the need for clubs and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket.

Clubs should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.

Should a player from Gloucestershire County Cricket Clubs Early Engagement Phase (EEP) wish to play in open age cricket they should contact Jonno Thompson (EEP Lead. Jonathan.thompson@glosccc.co.uk).

Once contacted the following process will take place.

- 1) Parent will be directed to a Microsoft form.
- 2) EEP Lead will contact the Safeguarding Lead of the Players club to discuss the players suitability and the environment they will be playing within.
- 3) Gloucestershire CCC will then decide on a player's suitability for Open Age Cricket.

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