



Prestwich Cricket Club



Club Policy - Juniors Playing in Adult Cricket

The Club has adopted a Policy for Juniors playing in Adult Cricket. This is in accordance with ECB guidelines and subject to regular review.

Making the step up from Junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. The Club will ensure that the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered, when assessing whether a Junior is ready for Adult Cricket.

There is no definitive age at which a player should be introduced to open age group cricket, but each case is determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level. However, to be eligible for open age cricket, players must be in Year 8 and be 12 years old on 1st September of the preceding year and parental consent is required for these players.

The Club will:

- Ensure that the ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for Junior players in open age group cricket
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way, so they will fully experience the game
- Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement. In allowing these players to play in open age cricket the club recognises the "duty of care" obligations they have towards these young players
- Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team
- Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else

The duty of care will ensure that the Club:

- Does 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
- Does not 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