

To ECB ACO Scorers within Kent

Safeguarding and Scoring

You will 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 hold in cricket. A DBS check alone is not protection. For years there has been an over-reliance on DBS checks.

Scorers are encouraged to complete the online *Safeguarding for Umpires and Scorers course, which is part of Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (SSR)*. This e-learning training replaced Safeguarding Young Cricketers (SYC) and should be completed every 3 years. Scorers are also encouraged to follow other safeguarding best practice guidance.²

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. Please note, both parts of the course need to be completed for certification.

Here is a link to the on-line training 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" - there 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, or in sight and hearing of others at the ground, there must be a 'responsible adult' with any U18s as well as the 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 all Clubs in the Kent League, reminding them of the ECB best practice guidance. This is NOT a new initiative but has been in place for some time but in many cases not adhered to. Many clubs are appointing youngsters as scorers and have left them with the opposition scorer in the belief that they will look after them. This is not so.

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

² *ECB Safeguarding Policies and Procedures – Kit Bag resources.*

Clubs should have a responsible adult acting as *'in loco parentis'*³ either at home or when travelling away if parents or guardians do not accompany the child.⁴

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 (e.g. the young scorer moved to another location). This is for your own protection.

It is hoped that the League 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.

With the assistance of Kent CCC Safeguarding Officer, Bridget Owen, all Kent League Clubs will be informed of the changes and encourage their Committee members, Captains and other officials, including scorers, to undertake the SSR e-learning and familiarise themselves with the ECB Safeguarding guidance.

Andy Lynch
County Scorer Officer

1st May 2024

³ *"In the place or role of a parent, as in a person acting in a parental capacity"* – Legal Dictionary definition.

⁴ *Managing Children Away from Club & Transporting Children to Cricket Activities – ECB Best Practice Guidance.*