FEBRUARY 3, 2023

ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR PLAYERS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY

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Eligibility Process for players with a Learning Disability

The ECB D40 QUEST, D40 PURSUIT and S9 REGIONAL leagues exists to provide competitive cricket opportunities for people with physical or learning disabilities, or those that have hearing impairment or who are deaf. To enable the leagues to be seen as offering a level playing field for all who wish to participate in it, it is necessary to ensure that all players meet a recognised and agreed level of disability. This is the reason why eligibility profiling exists in all disability sport.

Learning Disability is a disability characterised by significant limitation in both intellectual functioning and in adaptive behaviour as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 21.

If the **only** condition in a player is ADHD; Autism; Dyslexia; Behavioural problems or Asperger's for example, then it will be unlikely that these conditions will fulfil the Learning Disability eligibility requirements.

The England and Wales Cricket Board in consultation with UKSAPLD (United Kingdom Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities) and Activity Alliance have produced a process of eligibility for players with a Learning Disability to play in ECB managed disabled cricket competitions.

This process and specifically the eligibility evidence requirements are not as stringent as that applied in the UKSA's own process, however it has been agreed that cricket will apply the following requirements for all Learning Disability players playing in ECB managed competitive disability competition.

The Assessment Process

On competition of the player registration form, documented evidence to support the application will need to be sent (either by post or email) to the ECB Classification Officer (see page 3) of this document, along with the player registration form. The list of supporting evidence required is listed in the 'Supporting Evidence List' section of this document.

On verification of the supporting evidence, the ECB Classification Officer will inform the player of the applications success. The supported evidence sent will be returned to the play, however, scanned copies will be held on the ECB's secure database for internal use only and in compliance with the latest GDPR regulations.

PLEASE NOTE: A SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION WILL ONLY BE RELVANT TO CRICKET. IT WILL NOT ENTITLE A PLAYER TO COMPETE IN ANY OTHER DISABILITY SPORT. TO COMPETE IN OTHER DISABILITY SPORTS THE SPECIFIC NGB GUIDELINES FOR THAT RELEVANT SPORT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED.

It is not in the interest of the ECB to prevent people with disabilities in accessing disability cricket and all will be done to ensure that the correct supported evidence is provided by the player. The ECB will work with the layer to ensure that the correct levels of evidence have been received.

If incorrect evidence is received, dialogue will ensure a successful conclusion can be reached where possible

Appeals and Insufficient Evidence

The ECB Classification Officer may ask for further verification if it were felt that the supporting evidence supplied was not sufficient. In most cases where this applies, the verifier will contact the player or player's parent / guardian direct to ask for further supporting documentation.

It may be in the end, that a player will not meet the requirements for a Learning-Disabled player in cricket due to either insufficient evidence supplied, or that the player just does not meet the criteria. In these cases, and by way of an appeal, the player may apply direct to UKSAPLD (United Kingdom Sports Association for People with Learning Disabilities) to gain classification through their process. The ECB National Disability Pathway Manager will happily provide help and guidance through this process.

It should be noted that this will incur a cost of £100. These monies will be partly re-fundable (£50) if the player is found to be eligible.

ECB Profiling Classification Officer

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Supporting Evidence List

A player will need to provide **TWO** pieces of evidence from the following list. At least one piece of evidence needs to be either 1, 2 or 6 below. Please do not send original documents (**PHOTOCOPIES ONLY**)

1.IQ Test: Evidence of a full-scale IQ test where the score is 75 or less. If the player has a statement of educational needs, then an IQ test may form part of that statement. (This should be available from the players' school).

2. Special Education: Evidence would be a full copy of the persons Statement of Educational Needs, Record of Needs or equivalent and any appendices. This as in option 1 should be available from the players' school.

3. Special Accommodation: Evidence of a player living in special accommodation may be a letter from the accommodation provider. The letter would need to be on original headed notepaper and must contain a signature from the accommodation Principal and it must include the players' name.

4. Special Employment: Evidence here will be a letter from an employer or employment provider (such as Remploy) stating that the player is employed in a specially structured environment. The letter would need to be on original headed notepaper and must contain a signature from the employer or employment provider and it must contain the players' name.

5. Statutory Financial Support: The evidence here would be a letter from the DWP or DHS showing that the player is receiving Attendance or Carers allowance, Disability Living Allowance, PIP or equivalent. You will need to provide full letters and not just the first page. The letter must show that you are receiving this financial support now. Send the most up to date letter that you have.

6. Age of Onset pre-18: Intellectual disability must be evident during the developmental period, which is from conception to 18 years of age. Evidence here is the Statement for Educational Needs, evidence of an IQ test before the age of 18 or a psychologist's report that states that the person has a learning disability from an early age.

For players over the age of 18 some of the items may prove difficult to obtain, such as evidence from schools, particularly if the player is of an age where the school days were some time ago, however, the list above should still be sufficiently large enough for those players to provide two pieces of legitimate evidence**.**

PLEASE NOTE: It is in the interest of the ECB to ensure competitive disability cricket is played by the appropriate people. The ECB are not in the game of excluding people where the game on offer is the appropriate environment for individuals with learning disabilities to develop.

Every effort will be made to ensure that players provide the relevant documentation, and the ECB are committed to working with players and their families or support, to ensure this happens