SOMERSET CRICKET FOUNDATION

SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 24

SOMERSET CRICKET FOUNDATION

Welcome to our pre-season Safeguarding Newsletter for 2024. We hope that preparations are well underway at your club for the new season and that this newsletter will help you to ensure that cricket takes place in a safe, inclusive and welcoming environment.

WeCare - Welfare and Well-being Support

Club Safeguarding Officers can now access medical, mental health and well-being support through Canada Life WeCare. This is an excellent, free and entirely confidential support scheme that the ECB are providing for the Club and County Safeguarding Officer network. The provision will also be available for immediate family members. Please contact me for futher information and access.

DBS Updates

Scorers

As a matter of good governance, the ECB regularly reviews its safeguarding guidance to ensure it reflects the latest in safeguarding best practice. ***The role of a scorer was reviewed last year, and the legal advice received indicated that in general the role of a scorer does not in law meet the threshold to be a role requiring an enhanced DBS check.*** These requirements are set and applied in law. Our guidance was updated as a result. However, there may be scenarios where a scorer moves into regulated activity and an enhanced DBS would be required.

For further information and FAQ's please click **here**.

DBS Renewal Process - January 2023 update:

Changes to the DBS renewal process were introduced in January 2023 and this process will remain the same for next year. To remind yourselves of this process, please click **here.**

Smartsheet for Low Level Concerns (LLC)

The ECB have introduced a new national portal for capturing details of Low Level Concerns reported in clubs and County Boards/ Foundations.

We would appreciate your support in completing the new LLC Reporting form for any reported concerns that arise at your club, this can be found **here.**

Please note I will still be the first point of contact for any support or guidance around Low Level concerns that may be raised at your club.

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Safe Hands Guidance and new Safeguarding Club Policy Template

The ECB Safeguarding Team have been reviewing and updating the Safe Hands Policy, Guidance and Template documents. The ECB Safe Hands Policy has been updated and approved by the ECB Board and can be found **here.**

There is a requirement for recreational clubs to hold a safeguarding policy. The ECB are now asking clubs to complete a new Safeguarding Policy Statement which asks them to agree to Safe Hands being the single safeguarding policy for the game. This will hopefully be seen as a positive step forward, to reduce the workload for our volunteer Club Safeguarding Officers and provide consistency across the club network.

The new Safeguarding Policy statement for clubs to adopt and display can be found **here.**

Updated guidance and policy templates can be found on the ECB website **here.**

Safe Hands Management System

The Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) is an online Club Management Tool introduced in 2021 to support clubs in proactively managing safeguarding. All of our clubs have now been invited to onboard onto the SHMS with many of our clubs pro-actively using the system to manage their safeguarding provision.

The ECB are continuing to review the existing compliance rules to ensure that they remain fit-for-purpose in allowing clubs to demonstrate their commitment to safeguarding in the recreational game. For now, we would advise clubs do the following:

- Ensure all data on the SHMS is up to date prior to the start of the 2024 season and that your club portal is an accurate reflection of your volunteer workforce.
- Initiate any required DBS checks
- Update & complete all sections on the portal that are relevant to your club even if this means you are not able to meet all requirements to achieve club compliance

If clubs are required to reach a state of club compliance for a specific purpose (e.g. Clubmark accreditation) then we will review this on a club-by-club basis.

A 'Ten steps to success with the SHMS' guide can be found **here.**

If there are any tasks to be completed that you need support with, visit the SHMS Help Centre **here.**

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TRAINING

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Safeguarding Training Update

Safeguarding for Specialist Roles

If you are a Club Safeguarding Officer, Coach, Activator, Official, Committee Member, Captain or a parent there is a course available for you.

As a reminder Safeguarding for Specialist Multiple Roles has now replaced Safeguarding Young Cricketers. To complete the course all learners should complete the main module, titled Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (80%) and one of the bolt on modules (20%) relevant to their role.

For further information about all of the new ECB Safeguarding modules and how to book, please click **here.**

Club Safeguarding Officer Qualifications & Courses

A reminder that Club Safeguarding Officers are required to hold the following specific safeguarding qualifications:

- Online Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (SSR) – Safeguarding for Committee Members and Club Safeguarding Officers
- ECB DBS check
- The ECB Safe Hands Workshop

Safe Hands Workshops

We are pleased to be able to share details of our Safe Hands Workshops available in 2024, dates and venues below.

Date	Location	Time
Thursday 29 February 2024	Shapwick & Polden CC	6PM - 9PM
Tuesday 5 March 2024	Bath CC	6PM - 9PM
Wednesday 27 March 2024	Taunton Deane CC	6:15PM - 9:15PM

Further details and booking information can be found **here.**

Safeguarding Pre-season Clinic | Tuesday 19 March 2024 | 6.30 - 7.30pm

We will be holding a Safeguarding Pre-season Clinic on Zoom and all CSO's are invited to register. There will be a recap of the information above, a chance to hear from and network with CSO's at other clubs in Somerset and the opportunity to have your safeguarding questions answered ahead of the 2024 season.

CLICK HERE TO BOOK ONLINE NOW

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Thank you for committing to the role of Club Safeguarding Officer and making cricket a safer place for *everyone* involved.

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