



Information for Parents of Junior Members

Introduction

By adopting a comprehensive youth policy the intention of the Club is to provide children with the opportunity to a) enjoy the sport, b) practice and play in a safe and friendly environment, c) play the game in the correct spirit, d) develop valuable qualities such as leadership, confidence and self esteem, e) build lasting friendships with fellow participants, and f) enhance and strengthen the Club generally.

To ensure our standards of care and cricket development are the highest possible, the Club has achieved two key standards:

- **ClubMark Accreditation.** ClubMark was introduced by Sport England and is supported by the ECB. It is intended to ensure that clubs working with children apply consistent good practice and exceed minimum operating standards in four areas: playing sport, child care and protection, sports equity and ethics, and club management. The Club achieved the standards required and was given ClubMark accreditation in March 2007 and maintains this accreditation annually. A key part of this accreditation is the adoption of the ECB's Safe Hands Policy which is concerned with safeguarding children's welfare.
- **Focus Club.** Junior cricket development is overseen by the Sussex County Cricket Club/ECB, and where they judge a club to have both strategic importance and long-term commitment to the development of junior cricket, they grant Focus Club status in recognition of this.

Additionally, the Club ensures that age group coaches working with our Juniors a) are approved as suitable to do so, b) hold the appropriate ECB qualifications, and c) have completed a DBS check. (see below).

DBS Form A DBS form must be completed by any member of the Club who has regular and continuous contact with Junior Members e.g. Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches etc., and then must be sent to the relevant authorities for checks to be carried out. Only those persons deemed to be acceptable to the relevant authorities will be allowed to have involvement with Junior Members of the Club.

Annual Membership Fee. To partially recover costs of providing junior cricket ie coaches, insurance, equipment etc, the Club charges an Annual Membership fee for affiliating the applicant to the Club. Payment of this membership fee will i) make the applicant a Junior Member of the Club, and as such be able to participate in all practices and matches, except for specialist coaching courses as/when arranged by the Club, and ii) make their parents/guardians Social Members of the Club. All members are subject to the rules and regulations of the Club and by joining will be deemed to accept these rules and regulations. Membership fees are decided each year at the Annual General Meeting. Membership of the Club runs from 1st April 2018 to the 31st March 2019.

Fixtures. All matches will be published in the Club's Handbook which will be available for the start of the season. These will also show under "Matches" on the club's website – www.wctcc.org.uk

Transport to matches - Parents will be kept informed of cricket activities such as timing and transport details for away matches when your child is involved (we will use e-mail/mobile/Facebook/club website to communicate as appropriate). It is not the responsibility of coaches or team managers to transport or arrange transport for your child to and from the club or match. Furthermore it is the parents' responsibility to ensure they check their given e-mail address regularly to read updates from their child's coaching team. The club's policy is that parents/carers are responsible for transporting players to and from all matches and practice sessions. Where your child requires a lift, please do ensure that you make suitable arrangements with another parent/carer/responsible adult and let your coach/manager know of these arrangements. Therefore the club will not be registering or insuring private vehicles for the transportation of individuals in connection with any fixtures or practice sessions arranged by the Club. The implementation of this policy is certainly not intended to exclude any player from participation and parents or guardians should contact the club coach if they have any problems with this arrangement.

Collection of children after matches and training sessions: Children must be collected promptly at the end of training sessions and matches. Parents of children aged 11 or below must be on site at training or matches. If this is not possible they should appoint a representative to act on their behalf if an incident or emergency occurs and inform the age group manager or administrator who this person is. At the end of Friday evening training children aged 11 and below will be supervised until they are collected by a family member or representative. Children aged 12 and above will be expected to make contact with their parents at the end of the session or match. We recognise that some children aged 12 and above may be allowed to make their own way home but ask that parents inform the club of this arrangement.

Supervision of additional children at training sessions or matches: If any children are brought along to matches or training sessions, in addition to the child who is taking part in cricket activities, they must be supervised by an adult and kept safe. The Club can accept no responsibility for the safety of children who are not members of the club.

Conduct and Child Welfare Procedures. The Club has adopted procedures to provide a comprehensive, fair, and equitable process to be employed in order to resolve any alleged breaches of either conduct or where abuse is alleged to have taken place. Please contact the Club Welfare Officer immediately if you become aware of any potential breach of child welfare having taken place.

Club Welfare Officer (CWO). The role of the CWO is to protect the welfare of all Junior Members left in the trust of the Club. The Club Welfare Officer is Sarah Osborne and she can be contacted on 07766 914663 or emailed on sarahfosborne@hotmail.co.uk.

Codes of Conduct

In any sport, there are accepted codes of behaviour, some professional and some voluntary. For cricket, these codes have been adopted to a) protect the welfare of junior cricketers, b) provide safeguards for Club members and c) ensure the etiquette and spirit of the game is upheld.

Code of conduct for Junior Members of West Chiltington and Thakeham CC

- All members must play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions
- All members must respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of age, gender, ability, race, cultural background, religious beliefs or sexual identity
- Members should keep to agreed timings for training and competitions or inform their coach or team manager if they are going to be late
- Members must wear suitable kit including appropriate protective equipment when playing hardball cricket
- In all hardball games or practice sessions a good fitting helmet is compulsory for batsmen and wicket keepers, as agreed with the coach/team manager
- Members must pay any fees for membership, training or events promptly
- Junior members are not allowed to smoke, drink alcohol or take drugs on club premises or whilst representing the club
- Bullying of any sort will not be tolerated

Code of conduct for Parents and Carers at West Chiltington and Thakeham CC

- Encourage your child to learn the Laws of Cricket and play within them
- Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials.
- Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results.
- Never force your child to take part in sport.
- Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding good performances of all.
- Never punish or belittle a child for losing or making mistakes.
- Publicly accept officials' judgements.
- Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport
- Use correct and proper language at all times.
- Encourage and guide performers to accept responsibility for their own performance and behaviour.

Child Protection Policy.

The Club will follow the principles below with respect to our Junior Members:

The ECB Safe Hands Policy: adopted and implemented;

Coaching & Facilities: provide the highest standards reasonably possible;

Environment: create an environment of care, patience, understanding and encouragement;

Safety: demonstrate a firm commitment to health, safety, and welfare;

Abuse: provide all Managers, Coaches, Assistant Coaches and Authorised Helpers with information regarding abuse;

Protection: provide protection from any form of abuse and discrimination;

Guidelines: adopt good practice guidelines; and

Club Welfare Officer: appoint an Officer of the Club to oversee all aspects of the welfare of Junior Members.

Club Changing Policy. This policy applies to players under the age of 18 playing in adult teams. Parental consent must be given if young players are to share changing facilities with adults. Young players must not at any time change or shower with adults. You should be aware that most changing facilities at local grounds do not have separate changing rooms for adults and children. If young players are uncomfortable with sharing changing facilities with adults, they are advised to change and shower at home.

Mobile Phones: Mobile phones must not be used in changing rooms at home or away venues for any purpose

Junior Selection and Game Management Policy: This policy has been put together to help junior players and parents understand how teams are selected for matches and how the roles of players within matches will be managed. A copy of this policy is available on the club website.

In 2018 we are running our **Select Player Programme** for selected players in the U13s age group and above. Trials for the SPP will be held early in the season.

Facilities/Equipment. The Club is committed to providing high standards and as such has available the following: artificial wicket, mobile batting cage, and three full sized nets. Playing equipment will also always be made available.

Match fees. A £2.00 fee will be charged per player for all matches. During the SJCF this fee may be slightly higher (usually around £3). The match fee will be used to partially cover the cost of preparing home facilities, in particular the playing areas, and the cost of match balls.