

# Information for Parents 2017

## Introduction

The following pages provide an overview of the Youth Policy adopted by the West Chiltonington and Thakeham Cricket Club ("the Club") for the management of all aspects of cricket practiced and/or played by Junior Members of the Club. For full details please refer to the Club Youth Policy document on the Club's notice board or the 'Colts' General Information' section on our website.

Cricket has been played at West Chiltonington since 1921, and 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 2017 to the 31st March 2018.

**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](http://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. Children Under 9 and below must be collected from the coaches/manager promptly at the end of each training session or match. Children from U10 upwards are the responsibility of their parent/carers once the session or match has finished and they have been signed out of the register. If you are unable to collect your child, please ensure you make alternative arrangements, informing the coach/manager of these or contact the age group manager or coach in case of emergency.

**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 (see end of form for contact details) 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](mailto:sarahfosborne@hotmail.co.uk).

**Codes of Conduct for Club Officials and Volunteers, and Parents/Carers.** 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. The Club has adopted two specific codes, one for Club Officials and Volunteers, and the second for parents/carers. In addition to these codes of conduct, as detailed below, the Club has also introduced a 'Club Charter' for all concerned with the Club.

- i. Encourage your child to learn the rules of Cricket and play within them;
- ii. Discourage unfair play and arguing with officials
- iii. Help your child to recognise good performance, not just results;
- iv. Never force your child to take part in sport;
- v. Set a good example by recognising fair play and applauding the good performances of all;
- vi. Never punish or belittle a child for making mistakes;
- vii. Publicly accept officials' judgements;
- viii. Support your child's involvement and help them to enjoy their sport; and
- ix. Use correct and proper language at all times.

### **Junior Club Rules.**

As a Junior Member of the Club, you are expected to abide by the following rules:

- i. Play within the rules and respect officials and their decisions;
- ii. Respect your team mates and opponents;
- iii. Keep to agreed timings for training and matches, or inform your coach or team manager if you are going to be late or unable to make an existing commitment;
- iv. Wear suitable equipment for training and match sessions as agreed with the Club;
- v. Pay any fees for training or events promptly;
- vi. You are not allowed to smoke on Club premises or whilst representing the Club;
- vii. You are not allowed to consume alcohol or take drugs of any kind on Club premises or whilst representing the Club;
- viii. Do not carry out any act that breaks UK law.

### **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.

**Age Group Selection.** All players will be eligible and expected to play in their correct age group, and once selected and nominated for this age group at the start of the season, will continue with that age group for the duration of the season. However, the Junior Management Committee (JMC) recognises that exceptional circumstances may sometimes occur, and in these instances junior players may play in a more senior age group. All candidates eligible to play for an older age group will be nominated by the JMC, and the player will then be invited to practise and play for that age group for the duration of the season. All nominations to change age group will be at the sole discretion of the JMC and their decision will be final. The Club also recognises that player availability may also affect match selection, and if an age group cannot field eleven players, in these circumstances only, the age group coach may either select from age groups below, or ask players selected into older age groups to play for their actual age group in that particular match. If any issues arise from this selection or other matters, it will be referred to the JMC for resolution.

This season we are also running a **Select Player Programme** of coaching. Entry is via a nomination from the child's coach and colts may be invited as we progress through 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.