



Hayes (Kent) Cricket Club Limited

Policy for Junior Members Playing in Open Age Senior Matches

Original: March 2025 — Reviewed and confirmed valid: April 2026

Review due: March 2027

Hayes (Kent) Cricket Club Limited (“the Club”) recognises that talented junior players may on occasion be selected to play in senior (open age) matches. This policy sets out the safeguarding and Safeguarding arrangements that must be in place before a junior member plays in a senior Club match, in accordance with ECB guidance.

For the purposes of this policy, a “junior” is any player under the age of 18.

1. Selection of Junior Players for Senior Matches

- The decision to select a junior player for a senior match must take into account the physical, emotional and social maturity and readiness of the individual, not just their cricket ability.
- The captain of the senior side is responsible for ensuring the junior player is made to feel welcome, safe and supported throughout the match.

2. Parental Consent and Communication

- Written consent from the junior’s parent or carer must be obtained at the start of each season. This will form part of the consent form which is then signed by a Club Coach and signed off by the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- The parent or carer must be informed of: the fixture details (date, venue and expected finish time); the name of the responsible adult who will be the junior’s point of contact at the match; and any away travel arrangements.
- Parents and carers are encouraged to attend senior matches in which their child is playing.

3. Supervision and Safeguarding at Senior Matches

- A DBS-checked Club Officer or team manager must be present at every senior match in which a junior player participates and must take responsibility for the junior’s Safeguarding throughout the match.
- The responsible adult must ensure the junior player is not left unsupervised in the changing rooms with senior players. Separate changing arrangements must be made

where possible. If the junior must use the same changing room, the Club's Changing Rooms and Showering Facility Policy must be followed.

- The responsible adult must ensure the junior player has a safe way home after the match and must not allow them to travel home unaccompanied unless agreed with the parent or carer.

4. Alcohol and Adult Environments

- Alcohol must not be offered to or purchased for junior players at any point before, during or after a senior match, including in the clubhouse bar.
- Captains and senior players must be mindful of their language, conduct and conversation around junior players and must ensure the environment is appropriate for a young person.
- Any concern about a junior player's Safeguarding at a senior match must be reported immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer.

5. Away Matches and Travel

- The Transporting Children Policy applies in full to any travel arrangements involving junior players selected for senior matches.
- Junior players travelling to away fixtures must have parental consent for the travel arrangements and a named responsible adult must be identified for the journey.

6. ECB Age Regulations

- The Club will comply with all ECB and Kent Cricket League regulations regarding the minimum age for junior players to participate in senior matches. As of 2026, the ECB guidance is that players under 18 may play in adult recreational cricket subject to appropriate safeguards being in place, as set out in this policy.
- Players under the age of 13 must not play in open age senior cricket.

Originally drafted March 2025. Reviewed April 2026 – content remains valid and consistent with ECB safeguarding guidance. Minor wording updates made for clarity. Review due March 2027.