



SHERWOOD CRICKET CLUB

TO: All Team Captains, Vice Captains, Managers and Coaches

Guidelines on the wearing of Helmets by Youth Players

In February 2000 the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued new safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18. This guidance document can be found at www.play-cricket.com/helmets. In brief, the guidance recommended that:

- Helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions,
- Young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box),
- Young wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps.

Sherwood Cricket Club has mandated the wearing of helmets with a faceguard by all Youth players when batting and when fielding under the recommendations laid down by the ECB. Helmets are widely available and are covered by a British Standard (BS7928:1998). Sherwood Cricket Club advises all coaches, teachers, managers and umpires that they should not allow a young player without a helmet to bat or to stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball.

Sherwood Cricket Club is recommending that this guidance is followed by all players up to the age of 18. It applies to young players in adult cricket as well as to all Youth cricket played with a hard cricket ball. Sherwood asks that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all Youth players through clubs and schools.

The ECB also has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used and these form part of Sherwood Cricket Club rules for Youth players:

- No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 11 yards (10 metres).



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- These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.
- Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.
- In addition any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 6 yards (5.5 metres) of the bat, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
- These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket at Sherwood Cricket Club. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31st August in the year preceding the current season.