

JUNIOR CRICKETERS PLAYING IN ADULT MATCHES

The GCB has issued the following guidance covering the participation of young cricketers in adult matches. This guidance applies to boys and girls and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

Definition of a Junior Player:

There are specific age groups to which conditions in this document apply. Please note that it is the clubs responsibility to adhere to the specifications at all times.

Guidance for Clubs

- All clubs must recognize that they have a duty of care towards all young players who are representing the club. The duty of care should be interpreted in two ways :
- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.

In addition, the following specific requirements apply to young players in adult matches :

- All young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket. Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult matches. A young player acting as a runner must also wear a helmet even if the player he is running for is not doing so.
- The umpires and the opposing captain must be notified of the age group of all players participating in an adult match who are in the under 19 age group or younger even if the player is not a fast bowler. This requirement also covers any young player taking the field as a substitute fielder.

- Any player in the under 13 age group and younger must have explicit written consent from a parent or guardian before participating in adult matches. Clubs must ensure that their player registration procedures ensure that consent is obtained.

Clubs and leagues can apply more strict restrictions on the participation of young players in adult matches at their discretion. It is strongly recommended that a parent, guardian or other identified responsible adult is present whenever a player in the under 13 age group or younger plays in an adult match. This could include the captain or other identified adult player taking responsibility for the young player.



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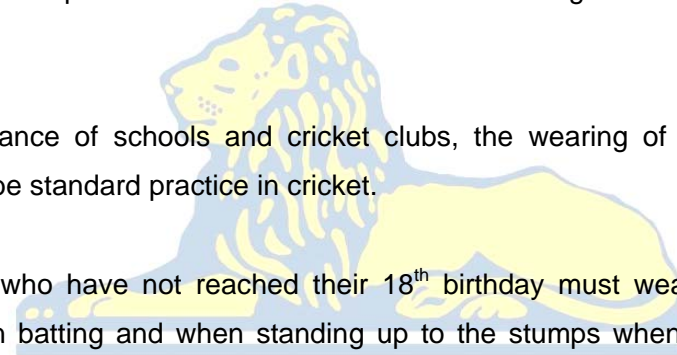
SAFETY GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF CRICKET HELMETS BY YOUNG PLAYERS

- 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 wicketkeepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard when standing up to the stumps.

With the assistance of schools and cricket clubs, the wearing of helmets by young players should be standard practice in cricket.

Young players who have not reached their 18th birthday must wear a helmet with a faceguard when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket in adult matches. Parental consent not to wear a helmet should not be accepted in adult cricket.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.



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FIELDING REGULATIONS

The GCB has regulations covering the minimum fielding distances for young players in all matches where a hard ball is used.

- No young player in the U/15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres (8 yards) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.
- For players in the U/13 age group and below the distance is 10 metres(11 yards).
- 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 U/16 or U/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 5.5 metres (6 yards) 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 in Gauteng. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

Bowling Restrictions

Any player 16 years or under 16 (years) may not bowl a spell longer than 5 overs with a maximum of 15 (*fifteen) in any given day.

No youth bowler may bowl again unless he has rested for the equal number of overs that he has bowled.

Examples:

bowled 1 over – needs to rest for 1 over before he can resume his next spell of bowling

bowled 2 overs – needs to rest for 2 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling

bowled 3 overs – needs to rest for 3 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling

bowled 4 overs – needs to rest for 4 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling

bowled 5 overs – needs to rest for 5 overs before he can resume his next spell of bowling



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