

GCB Guidelines on Supervising Children & Match Day



GCB

Clubs are to use these notes for clarification on ratios when working with children and the following guidelines apply to all cricket sessions.

It is important for clubs to remember when planning children's cricket, or general, sessions, sufficient adults must be present to adequately supervise all participants and manage any incident that may arise.

It is a basic requirement of all sessions and matches involving children that a minimum of two responsible adults will be present in all circumstances.

Clubs should always plan accordingly and coaches must feel confident in raising concerns if they find themselves placed in a position where they are expected to work alone and unsupervised. In matches there must always be at least two adults present and responsible for the team.

The GCB provides two different sets of ratios for working with children. It is vital coaches, and other key club personnel, understand the distinction between these two types of ratios. They are each explained below:

Qualified coach ratios required for coaching sessions

The GCB have produced appropriate ratios based on the number of qualified coaches required to run different technical disciplines within the game. The ratios of qualified coaches to children are as follows:

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|----------------------|---------|-------------|
| • Net Coaching | 1 coach | 8 children |
| • Group Coaching | 1 coach | 24 children |
| • Hard Ball Coaching | 1 coach | 16 children |

These coaching ratios are very different to the child supervision ratios, which are required at all sessions regardless of where these are held or which activities the children are doing. Details of supervision ratios are shown below:

Supervision ratios

Supervision ratios relate to managing groups of children and ensuring sufficient adults are present to deal with any issue or incident that may arise. For single sex groups, there must be at least one same gender member of staff. For mixed groups there must be at least one male and one female supervising adult.

There must always be a minimum of two adults present

Clubs must also factor in any further issues that the risk assessment of the facilities may have highlighted. For example, if the changing rooms are located several minutes walk from the training venue then the club may have to increase the number of supervisors in light of this additional information. The supervision ratios that must be adhered to as a minimum for clubs looking after groups of children are as follows:

Aged 8 and under	1 adult	8 children
Aged 9 and over	1 adult	10 children

It is also important for clubs to note that these ratios relate to adults and children i.e. those over 18 looking after those under 18.

Cricket specific safeguarding guidance

Volunteers who are under 18 years of age must not be used in the calculations for supervision ratios.

Drinks breaks

As part of our responsibilities in supervising children, it is vital all players drink appropriate amounts of water to avoid any possible risks of dehydration during matches and practice sessions.

Coaches, teachers, managers and umpires are encouraged to:

- Ensure regular intervals for drinks are arranged, particularly in matches of more than 20 overs per innings, or in hot weather
- Plan drinks breaks in practice sessions and matches every 20-40 minutes on warm sunny days. (This may sound excessive but on hot days players can need up to two or three litres each to stay fully hydrated)
- Avoid waiting for children to say they are thirsty before planning a drinks break as thirst is an indication of dehydration. Children tend to dehydrate more quickly than adults.

Facilities and venues used for children's cricket

All clubs must ensure they have undertaken an adequate risk assessment on all facilities and venues used for any club activities, regardless of ownership of that facility or venue. This does not include away match venues for

leagues but should include, where possible, facilities and venues that will be used on tours.

If clubs regularly hire facilities from other organisations such as schools or community colleges, there may be a generic risk assessment available for clubs to consider.

It is important all clubs recognise their responsibility for ensuring venues and facilities are fit for purpose. The outcomes of risk assessments may have an impact on the session planning or co-ordination of junior club training or matches. It is important risk assessments are done in advance and updated on an annual basis, or if changes to the facility have taken place.

Protective Helmets

Safety guidance regarding the wearing of head protectors by all cricketers under the age of 18 has been in place since 2000.

The GCB's current guidance is that all cricketers under the age of 18 must wear a head protector whilst batting in matches or practice sessions. The GCB also now strongly recommends that junior players use head protectors, which have been tested against the junior sized ball.

Wicketkeepers under the age of 18 should wear a head protector with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector, at all times when standing up to the stumps.

Any individual taking responsibility for any player(s) under the age of 18 should take reasonable steps to ensure this guidance is followed at all times.

No parental consent to the non-wearing of a head protector should be accepted.

Fielding

No young player in the Under 15 age group, or younger, shall be allowed to field closer than 8 yards (7.3 m) 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 m).

These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet. 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 m) 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.

GCB Fast Bowling Directives

The Fast Bowling Directives are designed to raise awareness of the need to nurture and protect our young fast bowlers through their formative years, and

have been warmly welcomed by a significant number of coaches and managers. Statistics clearly show that fast bowlers regularly win international matches, and, if England is to achieve the vision of becoming the most successful and respected cricket nation, we must make every effort to produce bowlers to reach the goal.

I would like to thank those involved in the development of talented fast bowlers for their observations and constructive feedback regarding the initiative. As coaches, we should consider the welfare of the individuals under our supervision. These regulations are designed to minimise the possibility of injury.

The Directives relate to all competitions under the auspices of the GCB at U19 level and below as well as all Premier League matches. It should be emphasised that the age of the player is the key criteria and not the level of cricket being played. The restrictions will be reviewed annually, and the Directives were amended slightly for the 2010 season onwards in relation to the number of overs to be bowled in matches.

Injury prevention for fast bowlers

These Directives apply to girls and boys, and any reference to he/his should be interpreted to include she/her.

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler should be defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would, in normal circumstances, stand back to take the ball.

All coaches are urged to identify those players with the potential to bowl fast and to ensure they follow the Directives in all cricket throughout the season.

Directives for matches:

Age	Max Balls Per Session	Max Sessions Per Week
Up to U13	5 overs per spell	10 overs per day
U14-U15	6 overs per spell	12 overs per day
U16-U19	7 overs per spell	18 overs per day

Directives for training:

Age	Max Balls Per Session	Max Sessions Per Week
Up to U13	30 balls per session	2 sessions per week
U14-U15	36 balls per session	2 sessions per week
U16-U17	36 balls per session	3 sessions per week
U18-U19	42 balls per session	3 sessions per week

For guidance it is recommended that in any seven day period a fast bowler should not bowl more than four days in that period and for a maximum of two days in a row.

Having completed a spell, the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been

bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided he bowls the next over he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen his spell is deemed to be concluded. If play is interrupted, for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress, at the time of the interruption, can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately.

Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number of overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast.