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WORLINGWORTH CRICKET CLUB

Welcoming and Safeguarding Children with a Disability or Special Need

**Guidelines**

**Our Commitment**

Our club is committed to ensuring cricket is open, and accessible, to all members of the community and that we support each person to achieve their potential in any capacity whether as a player, volunteer, coach or official. This principle applies regardless of, age, race, disability, ability, gender, religion or belief, sexual orientation or background.

These guidelines are designed to help coaches, managers and team captains to welcome children with disabilities or special needs into our club and support them to play cricket.

**Knowing our junior players**

Many children may have hidden disabilities (or special needs) – such as an autistic spectrum disorder, or deafness, or another condition that is not obvious. It is important that all adults supporting junior members are aware of any special needs that a junior member may have. To ensure this:

* During the registration process we will encourage parents and carers to share with the club any special needs their child may have on our registration form.
* Parents are welcome to ask to have a private discussion with either the Club Welfare Officer or Junior Co-ordinator to discuss their child’s needs, if they would like to do so.
* Each coach or manager should make sure they know of any declarations that have been made about the children or young people in their care regarding disabilities or special needs and the support each child needs to be able to participate.
* If, as a result of working with a child, a coach or managers has concerns that a child may need specific support but there is no declared need on the child’s registration form the coach/manager should discuss their concerns with the Welfare Officer in the first instance.

**How to support a child with a declared disability or special need**

If a parent/carer has identified that their child has special needs or a disability the team manager or coach should, in partnership with the Club Welfare Officer:

* firstly, discuss the child’s needs and abilities with the child and his or her parents/carers. *For many children with a disability, parents and carers will be able to offer practical advice on adaptations or arrangements that can be made to enable their child to participate.*
* agree a support plan with the parents and the child. It may be necessary to involve the child and the parent / carer in the implementation of the plan itself, if this will help meet the child’s needs and allow them to participate.
* if necessary, consult the ECB for further support in how to adapt their practice to meet the needs of the child or young person
* agree arrangements to review the plan regularly to check that it is working well and agree any adjustments.
* be especially vigilant regarding the child or young person’s welfare. *Children with disabilities have more vulnerable to bullying, abuse and neglect and it is important that all club officials are alert to this increased risk.*

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| Review due date | By 12 Feb 2025 |