



## **Kent Cricket Board and Kent County Cricket Club – Rationale & Ethos**

Every child who plays cricket should be able to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from abuse. This is the responsibility of every adult involved in working with children in youth cricket. Kent County Cricket Club (KCCC) and Kent Cricket Board (KCB) are committed to upholding this principle. Child abuse is a very serious and emotive issue for society as a whole – a child could die or be permanently mentally scarred if abuse is not recognised and acted upon.

**KCB and KCCC endeavour to ensure a duty of care to all young people associated with Kent clubs or Kent Young Cricketers and district squads by adopting and implementing the ECB ‘Safe Hands - Welfare of Young People in Cricket’ manual and by adhering to the County Welfare policy and perhaps by clubs acquiring ‘Clubmark’ status.**

Child abuse is a difficult and sensitive subject. It is vital to understand the feelings involved but not allow them to interfere with judgement about any action taken.

The England & Wales Cricket Board and Kent CCC/Kent Cricket Board recognise that the game has a duty towards children, defined as all those under 18 years of age, who enjoy playing cricket at whatever level. They recognise their obligation to ensure that those clubs and organisations providing cricket for under 18’s – including Kent Young Cricketers, Kent Schools District sides and Club Cricket at senior and youth levels – do so to the highest possible standard of care.

### **The ethos of KCB**

- We create a sense of belonging by using words like ‘we’, ‘our County’ etc
- We keep the atmosphere purposeful, professional but calm
- We believe that the ethos must be one of complete trust between coaches, players and parents.
- Our children must feel safe and confident, not least in being willing to try things and make mistakes.

### **Respect**

Coaching staff take real interest in and have a respect for all children and young people. In return they expect respect from the children and amongst each other.

### **Expectations**

Staff aim to be consistent in their expectations which will always be of the highest level, whilst remaining realistic. They aim to be open and honest and set an example of good social behaviour with each other and with students. They are always very clear about what constitutes acceptable and unacceptable behaviour.

### **Recognising achievement and being positive**

Staff aim to give praise for achievements, making sure the player knows what the praise is for. They are positive in their choice of words, tone of voice, body language and attitude. They try to minimise use of negatives and are constructive.

### **Supporting disappointment at County level**

Coaches and other staff do not offer false expectations and hopes. Whilst they are honest about release decisions, they try to support released players by recognising achievement and potential and encouraging them and perhaps helping them to continue playing at the highest level possible outside the Kent Young Cricketers structure.