

TRANSPORT POLICY

Definitions - In this Policy the following terms/expressions shall mean:

- the term "Surrey Cricket" means The Surrey County Cricket Club, Surrey Cricket Foundation and Kennington Oval Limited
- the terms 'child' or 'children' apply to anyone under the age of 14 and for the avoidance of doubt under the age of 18 and or "young people" apply to anyone over the age of 14 but under the age of 18
- the term 'parent' applies to anyone with guardianship or caring and parental responsibility for the child/ren and or young person/s
- the term 'staff' applies to coaches, team managers and all employees whether full time or part and volunteers working for and on behalf of Surrey Cricket
- the term ECB means the England and Wales Cricket Board
- the term "Safe Hands" means crickets policy for safeguarding children.

Statement of Intent

The aim of this policy is to provide procedures and practical guidance for all Surrey Cricket employees, agents, volunteers, and other professionals and or partners working alongside Surrey Cricket to safeguard children, young people.

Introduction

The issue of transporting children/young people has become very sensitive for sports leaders and parents. Many coaches argue that their team could not operate without the goodwill of volunteers and parents ensuring that children/young people are returned home or transported to events in a private car.

Why the need for a Transport Policy?

Statement taken from the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) website:

"The CPSU encourages coaches/staff not to take children on journeys alone in their car. This view has been taken by the CPSU from knowledge gained of how those who want to harm children have developed. Many will help through their genuine desire to see children, or their sport, develop. Unfortunately, we must face the reality that a minority of others will join a sports club to gain access to children and create an air of acceptability about their role, justifying their close contact with children and young people.

Though those who want to abuse children may find it more difficult to do so in a group setting, such as a leisure center or sports pitch, they could use this time to gain the trust of not only the child/young person but also other adults. Developing credibility is an essential part of any abusers "grooming process", not only grooming the child/young person, but also grooming other coaches or parents i.e., becoming the best volunteer.

The last stage to enable someone to offend a child is viewed as grooming the environment i.e., creating a justifiable reason for leaving the child alone. There have in the past been many opportunities within the sport setting for those who wish to abuse children to isolate a particular child. Thankfully Sports Governing Bodies are reducing this possibility in most coaching sessions, but the issue of transport can still leave children/young people vulnerable.”

Surrey Cricket have adopted the following best practice procedures

- Surrey Cricket hereby notifies Surrey Cricket Staff and or Parents/Carer's that: Parents/Carer's are responsible for the safe delivery and collection of their child/young person and or adults considered at risk to and from matches and or training.
- The Surrey Cricket Staff will distribute information as soon as practicable relating to all planned away fixtures or competitions to provide Parents/Carers with an opportunity to make appropriate arrangements. This will be done through Surrey Cricket emails and or through the appropriate Surrey Cricket Staff
- It is not the responsibility of Surrey Cricket Staff to transport, or arrange to transport, the children/young people to and from venues or matches.
- Surrey Cricket Staff are not liable or responsible for any private transportation arrangements organized by parents/carers with, other family members, friends, or even other team members in connection with getting their child/young person and or adult considered at risk to and or from club fixtures or training sessions.
- Parents/Carers are advised that when arranging lifts for their children/young people and or adults considered at risk with third parties, it is their responsibility to check that appropriate and up to date insurances and licensing documentation is held by the owner/driver of the vehicle.
- Surrey Cricket must receive permission from Parents/Carers for children/young people to participate in all competitions and away fixtures/events. This permission is by written consent and is obtained at the beginning of the season.
- It is Surrey Crickets policy that children/young people do not leave the playing facility without notifying the appropriate Surrey Cricket Staff that they are doing so. It is also the policy of Surrey Cricket that parents/carers do not take their children/young people away before the ground is tidied away (where required) and Surrey Cricket Staff are able to release the players in a controlled way.
- Parents/carers who knowingly are going to be late delivering or collecting their children/young person must take reasonable steps to inform the appropriate Surrey Cricket Staff member as soon as possible, so suitable arrangements can be made. In the

case of no such communication the Surrey Cricket Staff member will take reasonable steps to contact the parent/carer or alternative adult contact (details of which Surrey Cricket would have collected on the membership forms) to make alternative arrangements.

- Parents/guardians should have a contact number for the appropriate Surrey Cricket Staff member for the purposes of being able to inform them of emergencies and possible late collections.

Please Note.

Organisations/clubs must ensure drivers representing the club have valid car insurance, MOT and driving licence prior to carrying any passengers.

We advise the individual/driver to check with their own insurance company if they want to use their car as part of their paid/volunteer role.

(The above policy has been developed from 'ECB ("Safe Hands" Crickets Policy for Safeguarding Children) and the Child Protection in Sport Unit's Guidance on Transporting a child to and from competitions.

Policy dated: October 2023

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