



## **Maldon Cricket Club**

### **Playing Children in Open Age Cricket Policy**

*Updated March 2026*

This policy provides guidance for the selection and participation of young players (under 18) in open age group cricket, ensuring their safety, development, and enjoyment. It aligns with the England and Wales Cricket Board guidance and Safeguarding in Cricket principles.

#### **1. General Principles**

- Transitioning from junior to open-age cricket is a significant step; player welfare, development, and enjoyment must always be prioritised.
- Selection decisions must consider:
  - Physical, cognitive, and emotional maturity
  - Skill level and experience
  - Stage of personal development
- Every young player should be included in all aspects of the game (team talks, practice, social interaction, decision-making).
- Encourage young players to participate with peers or family members where possible for support.

- Provide opportunities for success, praise effort, and ensure young players are actively involved in meaningful roles during matches.

## **2. Minimum Age & Parental Consent**

- Children in school Year 8 or above may play open age cricket, with parental consent.
- Selection is at the discretion of the Colt Manager/Coach, based on individual suitability.
- Clubs must document parental consent prior to selection.

## **3. Duty of Care**

Clubs must ensure:

- 1) Young players are not placed in positions of unreasonable risk, considering:
  - a. The match circumstances
  - b. Relative skills of the player
- 2) Adult players are not restricted from normal play due to inclusion of young players
- 3) Safety measures are strictly followed, including:
  - a. ECB helmets
  - b. ECB fast bowling directives
  - c. ECB fielding regulations

#### **4. Communication & Oversight**

- The captain must inform umpires when under-18s are in the side.
- Coaches and managers are responsible for:
  - Monitoring compliance with safety rules
  - Ensuring children are supervised appropriately
  - Providing feedback to young players and parents to support development

#### **5. Player Development & Inclusion**

- Encourage active participation in all roles, not just peripheral positions.
- Support children socially and emotionally to ensure positive experiences.
- Children should feel safe, valued, and integrated in the open-age team.

#### **6. Documentation & Review**

- Maintain records of important selection decisions, parental consent, and safety compliance.
- Policy should be reviewed annually or when ECB guidance updates.