

ECB Guidelines for Junior Players in Open Age Group Cricket

The ECB has issued guidance covering the selection and participation of young players in open age group cricket. It is designed to help clubs to decide when to select young players in open age group cricket and how best to help their cricketing development when they play within open age groups.

1. Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience. Ensure that the player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience are considered.
2. There is no definitive age at which they should be introduced to open age group cricket but determine each case on an individual basis dependent on their ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part at this level, taking into account the requirement that no Junior Cricketers under the age of 13 can play in open age group cricket.
3. ECB Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations should always be adhered to for junior players in open age group cricket.
4. Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way. Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game.
5. Be supportive at all times for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
6. Try and involve them in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socializing, team talks, practice, decision making etc. so that they feel part of the team.
7. Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
8. Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else!

