

Rebecca Ledingham, Independent ECB Child Protection Manager, gives us a greater understanding of the CRB Checking process and the vital role it plays in ensuring that children are protected from harm.

# Coaching versus Child Protection

There is a lot of misunderstanding and misinterpretation surrounding child protection and its consequences for an individual.

There is a considerable body of legislation, government guidance and standards designed to ensure that children are protected from harm.

Did you know that any person under the age of 18 years old is for the purpose of law classed as a child?

Were you aware that the England and Wales Cricket Board Limited (ECB) has a legal 'duty of care' to all children in Cricket?

This essentially means that the ECB must ensure that all persons coming in contact with children in Cricket are suitable.

As part of ensuring our duty of care the ECB are in the process of undertaking a massive Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checking scheme on all qualified Coaches.

The CRB process gives the ECB access to information about criminal records and other relevant information about an individual coming in contact with children through their voluntary occupation.

## **DO YOU HAVE A PREVIOUS CONVICTION?**

The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 states that after a certain period of time, individuals are permitted to suppress convictions to employers to protect their right of privacy. These convictions are deemed to have been 'spent'. The Act was introduced to help restore the reputation of a person who was convicted of an offence but has since stayed on the right side of the law.

However, in 1975 the government produced the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act Exceptions Order. This means that an individual's right to suppress a previous conviction does not apply, when in a Cricket Club environment, coming in contact with children or vulnerable adults, be it voluntarily or paid. Where a post involves contact with children it is compulsory to disclose all previous convictions, whether you believe they are 'spent' or not.



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The ECB must investigate all convictions disclosed on a CRB Certificate. However, strict confidentiality is maintained at all times and only the ECB Child Protection Manager (consultant) is aware of an individual's history, unless it is deemed necessary to share this information with specified others.

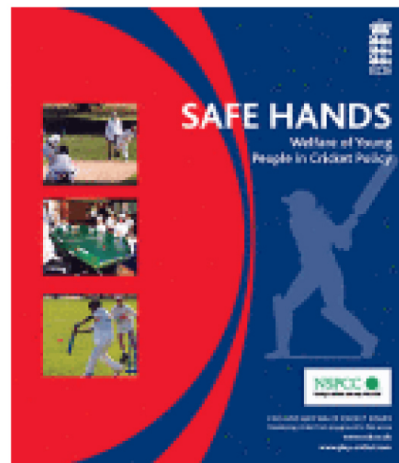
There are certain offences that for the purpose of the Children and Young Person Act 1933 are classed as Schedule One offences. These offences include any crime that has caused a person under the age of 18 years old harm.

There is limited conviction information provided on a CRB Certificate, for instance, the age of a victim is not stated. Therefore, the ECB will approach an individual, police, social services, probation and youth offending teams to name but a few to investigate any convictions that may impinge on child protection.

What you must understand is that it is not the ECB's intention to impede any person from providing a valuable contribution to Cricket. In the vast majority of instances individuals are investigated and permitted to continue in Cricket and any previous convictions assessed and kept confidential.

It is not an insult to an individual when a conviction is investigated it is merely a mandatory legal assessment as to its relevancy for the purpose of child protection.

If you have any concerns regarding a previous conviction please contact your County Welfare Officer for advice. Details available at [www.ecb.co.uk/safehands](http://www.ecb.co.uk/safehands)



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