

ECB Guidelines for a Code of Conduct for Children

The ECB actively encourages clubs to use the Code of Conduct for Members and Guests as a starting point for producing an additional Children's Code of Conduct. NSPCC research shows that when children are empowered to create rules for themselves these rules are usually far more greatly respected and are often stricter than those that would have been imposed by the adults responsible for supervising the groups. Children can feel empowered by the ability to voice their own opinion of what they feel is acceptable behaviour. Coaches and the Club Welfare Officer should be the facilitators for this additional Code of Conduct.

Club WOs are therefore encouraged to work with Coaches, Junior Team Managers, and children (preferably from a wide cross section of ages and experience), to design something that everyone will sign up to.

Possible topics that can be considered for discussion with the children are:

- why they come to the club / what they want from attending – e.g. to have fun, to learn how to play, to take part in matches, to be with their friends, to keep fit.
- how they want to treat and be treated by adults – i.e. coaches, officials, adult members of the club, spectators
- how they want to treat and be treated by other children at the club
- how they want to be able to raise any concerns they have got
- what rules or limits they think there should be
- how they think any breaches of the code of conduct should be dealt with

It is important for clubs to draw attention to their Codes of Conduct to all members and guests and to place these Codes of Conducts on all suitable notice boards in dressing rooms and in club areas.

