

Ramsbottom Cricket Club

Junior Foundation

Juniors Playing In Open Age Group Cricket Policy

Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is an important event in any player's cricket experience. The player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience will be considered

Clubs, squad coaches and managers will take into account the requirements on age detailed in this policy

Each case will be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in Open Age cricket. The minimum age guidance provided below will be followed.

Juniors will be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team

Where possible, a family member or friend will also be playing in the side (or involved with the team talks etc.) to make the child feel more comfortable.

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

We will provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.

We will be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful. We will try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement

The captain will inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side.

Restrictions ECB Helmets, Fast Bowling Directives and Fielding Regulations will always be adhered to for junior players in Open age group cricket

Minimum age Players who are selected in a County U12 squad (or Regional squad in Wales) in spring for a summer squad - or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'district level' for that season - are also eligible to play Open age cricket. This is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1st September in the year preceding the season, and have written parental consent to play.

Ramsbottom Cricket Club and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards young players in Open Age cricket

The minimum age for Open Age cricket is the U 13 age group. Players must be in Year 8, and 12 years old on the 1st September of the preceding year. This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or area squad (or region in Wales) . Written parental consent is required.

The duty of care places 2 requirements on the club:

- Not to place a young player in a position that involves an unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player
- Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.