**Wearing of Helmets by Young Players**

RCC have implemented the ECB Wearing of Helmets by Young Players Regulations as below**:**

Batsmen and wicketkeepers standing up to the stumps must wear head protection when playing or practising.

This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in open age group cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball. The guidance also applies during all practice sessions.

Any individual taking responsibility for players should take all reasonable steps to ensure this guidance is followed at all times.

With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets are widely available and are covered by an updated British Standard (BS7928:2013). A face protector represents an alternative head protection system for young wicket keepers. Wicketkeeper Face Protectors are covered by a new British Standard (BS 7928 – 2 :2009). The ECB strongly recommends that wherever possible junior players use head protectors that have been tested against junior sized cricket balls.

* Helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions.
* Wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector, when standing up to the stumps.
* Any young player in the Under 16 to Under 18 age groups, who has not reached the age of 18, must wear a helmet and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box) when fielding within 8 yards (7.3 metres) from the batsman’s position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, except behind the wicket on the off side. Players should wear appropriate protective equipment whenever they are fielding in a position where they feel at risk.
* All young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box).
* All young wicketkeepers should regard a helmet with a faceguard or a face protector as a normal part of their protective equipment together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box).

**No parental/guardian consent to the non-wearing of a head protector by any U18 player will be accepted by RCC**.

This guidance is to be communicated to the parents, or guardians, of all young players through the Club. RCC’s young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.

**Wearing of Helmets by Players over the age of 18**

The ECB **strongly recommends** that all adult recreational cricketers should wear helmets for certain activities, preferably which meet the most recent British Safety Standard (see below). This recommendation applies to batting against all types of bowling, wicket-keepers standing up to the wicket (who may as an alternative wear face protectors) and fielders fielding closer than eight yards from the batsman’s middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side.

**Women Cricketers**

The ECB understands that there is currently no specific women's helmet and as a

consequence no specific standard for women's cricket helmets. As the size of the

standard women's cricket ball is between the standard men and junior balls, it is

recommended that women use helmets that have been tested against both the men's and junior sized ball, or at least against the junior size ball (as that could potentially get through the gap above the face guard on a men's helmet).

**British Safety Standard**

The latest British Safety Standard is BS7928:2013 (for both adults and juniors). The full list of helmets meeting this standard is available at www.ecb.co.uk/helmets. For wicket-keeping face protectors the relevant British Safety Standard is BS7929-2:2009 (again, for both adults and juniors).

The key features of the new specification, BS7928:2013, are:

It now includes a facial contact projectile test that assesses for penetration of the ball through the faceguard, and contact of the faceguard onto the face, using realistic ball impact speeds and conditions. Head protectors have been tested separately against men's and junior sized cricket balls (a five-and-a-half ounce ball and a four-and-three-quarter ounce ball, respectively).

The ECB now STRONGLY RECOMMENDS that senior and junior players use head protectors which have been tested against the senior and junior sized balls and are compliant with BS7928:2013.

**Summary**

RCC encourage all cricketers to carefully consider their own health and safety regarding the use of helmets. It is RCC policy to make players aware of the ECB’s above recommendation in relation to helmets. RCC encourage players, parents and guardians to satisfy themselves that any newly purchased helmets meet the latest British Safety Standard.