



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2026



UPDATES

- DBS digital ID verification
- Crime and Policing Act
- Reporting Concerns
- Safe Hands Course

Digital ID Verification will be available for all DBS applicants. Although optional, this service directly addresses feedback about the time and effort involved in organising ID checks and will significantly reduce the coordination usually required from you as a verifier.

- Quick process – completing a Digital ID takes no longer than 10 minutes.
- Immediate Digital ID confirmation – the applicant's identity is verified instantly, helping to speed up the DBS application journey.
- Time-saving – auto-fill features streamline the application, reducing repetitive data entry.
- Convenient – no need to locate an ID verifier or arrange face-to-face document checks.
- Cost – we've kept the fee as low as possible, at just £4.92, making the process accessible for applicants.

Face-to-face ID verification is still available for those who prefer or require it.

[Safe Hands Kit Bag](#)

CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2026

What has changed?

The act brings limited changes for cricket, due to existing ECB DBS and Safer Recruitment processes. The main update is the introduction of a legal duty for individuals in regulated activity to report child sexual abuse and ensure that concerns are properly escalated, not assumed to be handled by others. The Act also reinforces individual accountability for safeguarding, highlights risks such as child criminal exploitation and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) beyond the club setting and emphasises that safeguarding goes beyond DBS checks.

What does this mean for Cricket Clubs?

For clubs, the act means a much stronger emphasis on doing what you already do well and consistently. Clubs should continue robust DBS and safer recruitment processes, ensure all coaches and volunteers understand they have a personal responsibility to report and follow up safeguarding concerns, and be alert to wider risks such as exploitation or harm occurring outside the club. Overall the focus is on maintaining a good safeguarding culture, clear reporting pathways and shared accountability rather than introducing new procedures.

What does this mean for you?

We are not asking you to investigate concerns by yourself; instead ensure information is passed on promptly to your County Safeguarding Officer, who can work with you and designated colleagues to help resolve concerns in the appropriate way.

If you are made aware of criminal activity or police involvement involving a member of your club, this information must be reported to your County Safeguarding Officer immediately. Please do not wait for further details or outcomes before making contact.

SCENARIOS WHERE THE ACT IS IMPORTANT

1. A junior cricketer tells their coach after training that a family member has sexually abused them. The coach reports this to the Club Safeguarding Officer but does not check what happens next.

Under the Act, the coach has an individual duty to make sure the concern is properly escalated to the appropriate agencies (social services, police, etc). Assuming someone else has done it is not enough and could lead to a DBS referral. The coach should therefore follow up with the CSO to ensure the concern has been escalated appropriately.

2. A club chair asks the Safeguarding Officer to “wait until the end of the season” before reporting a serious safeguarding concern involving a popular coach.

Delaying or discouraging a required safeguarding report is now a criminal offence, regardless of seniority or club interests.

3. A parent helps every week at junior nets, always supervised by a qualified coach, and has not been asked to do an ECB DBS.

The supervision exemption has been removed, a person working regularly and closely with children, supervised or not, is now eligible for an enhanced DBS check with barred list information.

REPORTING ALL CONCERNS

What is a low-level Concern?

A low-level concern is a concern about behaviour that doesn't meet the threshold of harm but is still inconsistent with a club's code of conduct or values. They can also be about behaviour that causes a sense of unease or a "nagging doubt".

Low-level concerns are different from allegations, which are concerns that meet the harm threshold. However, multiple low-level concerns can add up to form a pattern that meets the harm threshold.

Examples could be:

- Breach of club code of conduct
- Inadequate supervision or care for children and young people
- Social Media contact with under 18's
- Speaking in a rude, insulting, belittling or other inappropriate way
- Driving children home after training or matches
- Using inappropriate sexualised, intimidating or offensive language.

Low-level does not mean that it is insignificant, it means that the behaviour does not meet the harm threshold for a referral to the Cricket Regulator Case Management Team. If ever in doubt, speak with your Club or County Safeguarding Officer.

Threshold Concerns

These are managed by the Cricket Regulator.

Suspensions may be imposed if the Cricket Regulator believe that an individual poses a risk to children or adults at risk in cricket.

This is not a decision for clubs to take in isolation where there are safeguarding concerns.

Any concern involving statutory agencies, such as police or LADO should be reported to the Cricket Regulator.

We need to commit to fostering a culture of transparency and openness in reporting and this includes self-reporting that protects an individual from misunderstandings and/or allegations (e.g. occasions whereby a coach finds themselves in a situation that is unavoidable and unintentional but happened to breach best practice guidance).

We therefore encourage clubs to report ALL concerns to your County Safeguarding Officer and have provided the following list of examples to support any queries or doubts as to whether you should report.

[Safeguarding Referral Form](#)

SUMMARY

- **Digital ID**

DBS ID checks can now be carried out digitally at the expense of the 'applicant'. If an individual wants a face-to-face ID check (free) they can still do this.

- **Police and Crime Act 2026**

For individuals in a regulated role:

There is now a legal duty for individuals in regulated activity to report child sexual abuse and ensure that concerns are properly escalated. Please ensure those in regulated activity at your clubs are aware of this update and the additional responsibility to ensure child sexual abuse is escalated.

For clubs:

The supervision exemption has been removed, a person working regularly and closely with children, supervised or not, is now eligible for an enhanced DBS check with barred list information. Anyone working with children and therefore in a regulated role must hold an ECB DBS - the supervision exemption has been removed.

- **Reporting concerns**

We have had concerns being reported in and I encourage you to contact us here at Nottinghamshire with all concerns brought to your attention. Remind coaches and people within your club to report concerns into yourselves as safeguarding officers or myself and Andrew.

SAFE HANDS COURSE

Sign up [here](#) for our next safe hands course

Location: West Bridgfordians CC, Stamford Road, NG6 2GD

Timings: 18:15-21:15

Date: 18th of August 2026

If you need to attend a safehands course please make every effort to attend - drop me a message if you have any issues.

Abbie Johnson: 07726675880