

Appendix B

Young fast bowlers

ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives

Age Maximum	Maximum Overs Per Spell	Maximum Overs Per Day
Up to 13	5 overs	10 overs
Under 14, Under 15	6 overs	12 overs
Under 16, Under 17	7 overs	18 overs
Under 18, Under 19	7 overs	18 overs

For the purpose of these Directives a fast bowler should be defined as a bowler to whom a wicket keeper in the same age group would **in normal circumstances** stand back to take the ball.

Age groups are taken from 1st September the previous year.

Having completed a spell the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. A bowler can change ends without ending his current spell provided that he bowls the next over that he legally can from the other end. If this does not happen, his spell is deemed to be concluded.

If play is interrupted for any reason, for less than 40 minutes any spell in progress at the time of the interruption can be continued after the interruption up to the maximum number of overs per spell for the appropriate age group. If the spell is not continued after the interruption the bowler cannot bowl again, from either end, until the equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell before the interruption have been bowled from the same end. If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately. Once a bowler covered by these Directives has bowled in a match he cannot exceed the maximum number of overs per day for his age group even if he subsequently bowls spin. He can exceed the maximum overs per spell if bowling spin, but cannot then revert to bowling fast until an equivalent number of overs to the length of his spell have been bowled from the same end. If he bowls spin without exceeding the maximum number of overs in a spell the maximum will apply as soon as he reverts to bowling fast.

The limits on overs in a day will continue to apply across more than one game if a player plays in multiple games on the same day.

Captains, Team Managers and Umpires are asked to ensure that these Directives are followed at all times.

REGULATIONS FOR YOUNG PLAYERS (ALL DIVISIONS)

No young player in the Under 15 age group or younger shall be allowed to field closer than 7.3 metres (8 yards) from the middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side, until the batsman has played at the ball.

For players in the Under 13 age group and below the distance is 10 metres (11 yards).

These minimum distances apply even if the player is wearing a helmet.

Should a young player in these age groups come within the restricted distance the umpire must stop the game immediately and instruct the fielder to move back.

In addition 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 5.5 metres (6 yards) of the bat, 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.

These fielding regulations are applicable to all cricket in England and Wales. Age groups are based on the age of the player at midnight on 31 August in the year preceding the current season.

SAFETY GUIDANCE ON THE WEARING OF CRICKET HELMETS AND FACEGUARDS BY YOUNG PLAYERS (ALL DIVISIONS)

The England and Wales Cricket Board has issued safety guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets by young players.

It is recommended that a helmet with a faceguard is worn by young players when batting and when standing up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice. A young player should not be allowed to bat or to stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket without a helmet with a faceguard against a hard ball except with written parental consent. Coaches, teachers, managers and umpires should always ensure that a young player wears a helmet if this written parental consent has not been received.

Players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting against a hard ball, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box). The faceguard should be adjusted to ensure that the size of ball being used cannot pass between the peak of the helmet and the top of the faceguard. There is a British Standard (BS7928:1998) for cricket helmets and it is in the best interests of players to ensure that their helmet and faceguard conforms to this standard. The ECB is recommending that this guidance is followed by all players up to the age of 18. It applies to young players in adult cricket as well as to all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

The ECB is requesting that the guidance is communicated to the parents or guardians of all young players through clubs and schools, and that parental consent is always obtained before young players are allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing a helmet with a faceguard.