



Requirements for a Disability Cricket Focus Club

This paper is to set out the requirements needed by a cricket club that wishes to become an ECB Disability Focus Club.

ECB recognises that our responsibility to vulnerable adults and to the provision of quality cricketing opportunities to those from minority groups is an important part of our role as a major governing body of sport in the UK. People with disabilities have the same rights as anyone else to be able to participate in the sport of cricket in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The basic requirement for consideration to be an ECB Disability Focus Club is that the club has achieved or is working to achieve ECB/Sport England Clubmark accreditation. In addition to this basic requirement there will be some additional requisites for specific disability clubs.

ECB Clubmark gives clubs an opportunity to write and implement new procedures as well as acknowledge existing practices. Cricket clubs are required to present evidence and demonstrate implementation across four different themes, culminating in the production of a Club Development Plan.

The four themes are:

- * Duty of Care and Safeguarding Children
- * The Cricket Programme
- * Knowing your club and its Community – One Game
- * Club Management

These themes are highlighted in more detail on

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/clubs-and-leagues/clubmark>

In addition to achieving the ECB/Sport England Clubmark Accreditation, a disability focus club will need to have completed the EFDS Inclusive Club Health Check Review. This is similar to clubmark but is more disability specific. Having self assessed against this document the club must be able to evidence how it achieves the standard required and a plan to address any areas where it falls short. The EFDS Inclusive Club Healthcheck is available to download at www.efds.co.uk

All of the requirements to be a disability specific focus club will be covered through ECB Clubmark and the EFDS Inclusive Club Healthcheck but here are some other considerations that clubs need to think about when offering opportunities for people with different types of disability.

Deaf Cricket –

- Environment - need to consider how the coach will communicate with the participants. Use of a signer would be recommended if appropriate but not all deaf or hard of hearing players will use sign language so it will not solve all communication problems. High levels of background noise to be avoided – most deaf players will use a hearing aid if they can. Not all deaf cricketers are completely deaf.

Blind Cricket –

- Environment – the club needs to be accessible via public transport links yet away from busy main roads.
- Visually Impaired cricketers use hearing to detect the line of the ball so again background noise needs to be avoided.
- Not all Blind cricketers are completely blind

Learning Disability –

- Ensure your club is welcoming and creates a good atmosphere for people with a learning disability to thrive in.
- There are many ways that learning difficulties affect people therefore it is vital that coaches and members of the club understand an individual's issues and how they respond to being in a sporting environment. Often those with LD have low self-esteem and are used to being worked with on a one-to-one basis so being in a group environment can be daunting, therefore what might seem like harmless mickey taking to some is highly offensive and intimidating to others and can often trigger avoidable responses.

Physical Disability –

- Environment – Access is the obvious one. Its not just about ramps though. Consider having grab rails and also hand rails on ramps or slopes.
- Ideally a player in a wheelchair should be able to access the pitch the same way as his/her more mobile team mates. Try to make the pitch access accessible for all.