

ECB Clubmark Accreditation Scheme 2024



Club User Guide

Introduction

Clubmark is an accreditation scheme for cricket clubs which shows that a club is sustainable, well run and provides the right environment for its members. Clubmark accreditation also means your club is recognised as a safe, rewarding and fulfilling place for participants of all ages, as well as assuring parents and carers that they are choosing the right option for their young people. Clubmark remains a key component of helping clubs raise standards in the recreational game and is used by many leagues as an entry requirement and the Home Office as part of requirements for the managed migration process.

Key priorities for 2024

1. Introduce a new club accreditation – having undertaken a full review of the current Clubmark accreditation scheme in 2023, we will be introducing a new accreditation in 2025 based upon a framework of club development. As such, this will be the last year which we run the current accreditation based upon the existing criteria. During 2024, we will be engaging with stakeholders from across the recreational game in order to shape the future direction of accreditation to most effectively support the development and sustainability of recreational cricket.
2. Continue to embed Safe Hands Management System (SHMS) – since its introduction in 2021, over 3,500 clubs are now active on SHMS. We will be continuing to work with clubs to allow them to access this online club management tool and use it to ensure they are meeting their safeguarding responsibilities. It is necessary for clubs to remain engaged with SHMS in order to retain Clubmark status.

Timescales

- Portal opens for clubs to load evidence – Monday 1st January 2024
- Last day for newly accredited clubs to add required evidence – Friday 28th June 2024
- Last day for completed remediation actions – Friday 30th August 2024

Process

Documentation can be reviewed at any point after its final submission, and any technical remediation can be made if necessary to support clubs in gaining accreditation. It is encouraged, where possible, that clubs look to submit documentation well ahead of the final deadline to ensure that accreditation is completed ahead of the end of the season. This resolves clubs submitting last minute, not getting accredited and not having time to resolve any issues.

- You will be able to access your 2024 Clubmark files and add the required evidence once the portal re-opens on 1st January 2024. Instructions on how to load evidence can be found on the Clubmark section of the online portal. **Please note:** before you start to add any evidence to the portal, you need to select the **Start Accreditation** option when you go into the **Clubmark** section of the portal.

- The Clubmark scheme is run centrally by the ECB but is managed locally via the County Boards. Your local County Board will let you know of the operational timescales they are working to. All documents will need to be added to the portal by 28th June 2024 or any earlier date specified to you by your local County Board.
- You will be allocated a Club Support Officer by your local board, who will assist you with the process and conduct a site visit if that is necessary.
- The 2024 criteria are below for you to familiarise yourself with. You will see there are a number of mandatory evidence requirements to be loaded on the portal.
- Your club will also need access to the Safe Hands Management System and ensure that all individuals who need a DBS have one and are registered on the system.
- Other blank templates such as model constitutions and templates can be found under the “Resources” section of the Club Portal. We are currently refreshing a number of these, together with adding new resources, so please keep checking this section of the portal.
- If you do not have access to the Club Portal then please e-mail club.mark@ecb.co.uk detailing club name, your e-mail address and your position within the club
- Upon review of your online file you may be asked to undertake some remediation activity. You will not have your accreditation confirmed until that work is completed. All remediation will need to be completed before 30th August 2024.

Best Practice

- Start reviewing your documentation as soon as you can and ensure it meets the criteria before you load onto the portal.
- The earlier you start the process, the easier it will be for you. Historically, where clubs have left loading documents near to the local deadline, it has been more difficult it has been to achieve accreditation.
- Ensure your coaches and other relevant officials are up to date with all qualifications and added to the Safe Hands Management System. This should be done ahead of the season starting as vetting needs to take place before someone takes up a role. The biggest area of non-compliance in 2023 was open age team captains so ensure they are vetted as checks to information on Play-Cricket will be undertaken.
- If you employ the services of an outside coaching company for junior training, you still have the responsibility of ensuring all coaching, safeguarding and first aid qualifications are up to date for coaches undertaking sessions at your club.
- Review your constitution to make sure membership is “open” and that it adopts the relevant ECB policies. If your club has any clauses relating to proposers and seconders for membership or has a committee vote on membership, then this means the constitution is not open and will need amending. There is an updated model club constitution in the “Resources” section which cover off all these points.
- Within your constitution, it is key that you have evidence of the adoption of the ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct.
- Ensure your meeting minutes are all up to date.
- Share the work involved with your accreditation around your club, by adding relevant colleagues to the portal. You can do this by clicking on your name in the top right-hand corner, clicking on “Admin” and then clicking on “My Colleagues”.

- Add Clubmark as a standing agenda item to your committee meetings.
- Try and load documents onto the portal ahead of the season starting so your Club Support Officer can review these ASAP.
- Discuss a timetable with your Club Support Officer for the process during the year to ensure the accreditation happens in a timely manner.
- You can view any previous documents you loaded onto the portal by clicking on your name in the top right hand corner of the screen, then clicking on Admin and then Documents.

Criteria

Criteria	Evidence (* - Mandatory Upload)
We have a club development plan in place which we review annually to ensure it meets the wants and needs of our club members. The plan highlights our short, medium and long term aspirations and is shared with our members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club development plan*
We have governing documents in place which detail how the club is run and includes as a minimum an open (non-discriminatory) constitution which includes "Safe Hands" and ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct adoption, together with a signed Safeguarding Policy Statement for Clubs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open non-discriminatory constitution* • Copy of AGM/EGM minutes which capture adoption of ECB Anti-Discrimination Code of Conduct* • Signed Safeguarding Policy Statement for Clubs*
We are aware of risks that may impact on our Club. Our activities, premises and coaches are insured using public liability insurance to a minimum value of £5 million and employers liability insurance to £10 million.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance schedule and/or central ECB scheme confirmation*
We practice good financial management and manage our finances through a dedicated club bank account which requires 2 independent signatures for payments. We also prepare annual accounts which are made available to members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy bank statement* • Annual accounts*
<p>Our governing committee –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consists of at least 3 people who are unrelated and not co-habiting. • Includes the Club Safeguarding Officer • Is subject to regular election. • Meets at least 4 times a year with decision making recorded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee structure chart* • Copies of at least 4 committee meeting minutes within the last 12 months* • Latest AGM minutes (to be within last 12 months)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holds an Annual General Meeting open to members • Recognises and records any conflicts of interest. • Proactively recruit new committee members considering skills needed and diversity. 	
<p>We have adopted & implemented the ECB "Safe Hands" Policy, ensuring all members are aware of safeguarding procedures. This includes but is not restricted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing a Club Safeguarding Officer (s) who is ECB Vetted and has completed the requisite ECB training for Club Safeguarding Officers. • Ensuring Coaches and other relevant personnel whose roles include responsibilities relating to working with children are ECB vetted (including an enhanced DBS check). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliant status on Safe Hands Management System

Questions

For any questions contact your local County Board representative or e-mail club.mark@ecb.co.uk.