BRYMBO SPORTS & SOCIAL COMPLEX
COLLEGE HILL, TANYFRON,, WREXHAM, LL11 5TF
www.brymbocricketclub.com

GUIDANCE FOR JUNIOR PLAYERS IN OPEN AGE GROUP CRICKET

- This guidance has been drawn up in accordance with ECB guidelines:
  - It covers the selection and participation of young players in open age Group cricket;
  - It applies to boys and girls;
  - It helps our club to decide when to select young players in open age group cricket;
  - It helps us to understand how best to help young players with their cricketing development when they play within open age groups.
- The ECB keeps their guidelines under review and this guidance will be updated accordingly.
- The overall aim is to allow young players to develop in safety, but not to spoil the game for adults.
- For the avoidance of doubt, this guidance applies to training and nets as well as games, for men's and women's cricket, and for the indoor game.

General

- Making the step up from junior to open age group cricket is a significant event in any player's cricket experience.
- The player's safety, personal development needs and overall cricket experience must be considered.
- Coaches and managers must take into account the requirements on age detailed in this guidance.
- Each case is to be determined on an individual basis, depending on the player's ability and stage of cognitive and emotional maturity to take part in open age cricket.
- The minimum age guidance provided below **MUST** be adhered to.
- Juniors should be involved in all aspects of the game wherever possible, i.e. socialising, team talks, practice, decision making and so on, so they feel part of the team.
- Children will often feel more comfortable and able to perform if they have a family member or friend also playing in the side.
- Remember, children's early experiences will remain with them always and will often determine whether they want to remain playing the game or give up and do something else.
- Provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.
  - Children who are just used as fielders will not fully experience the game
- Be supportive, at all times, for all forms of effort even when children are not successful.
  - Try and put them in situations where they will experience some success (however small) and ensure plenty of praise and encouragement.
- The captain must inform the Umpires of under 18s in the side.

Restrictions

- The following **must always** be adhered to for junior players in open age group cricket:
  - ECB Guidance on the wearing of cricket helmets (head protectors) by young players
  - ECB Fast Bowling Directives
  - ECB Fielding Regulations

These can be found on the ECB website at this link

Minimum Age

- **The minimum age for open age cricket is the Under 13 age group.**
- Players must be in Year 8 and 12 years old on 1 September of the preceding year.
- This applies to all club and district players who are not in a county or regional squad.
- **Written parental consent is required.**
- The exception to the above are players who are selected in a County U12 or Regional squad in spring for a summer squad or in another squad deemed by ECB Performance Managers to be of a standard above 'district level' for that season are also eligible to play open age cricket.
  - This is providing they are at least 11 years old, are in School Year 7 on 1 September in the year preceding the season, **and have written parental consent to play**.
  - Please be aware that at under 12 level the ECB recommends that the focus is on participation rather than Talent I.D, and many counties no longer run under 12 squads. Inclusion of ANY Under 12s in open age teams should be an **EXCEPTION AND NOT AN EXPECTATION.**

Duty of Care

- **In allowing these players to play in open age cricket it is essential that the club and coaches recognise the 'duty of care' obligations they have towards these young players. This means:**
  - Not to place a young player in a position that involves unreasonable risk to that young player, taking account of the circumstances of the match and the relative skills of the player.
  - Not to create a situation that places members of the opposing side in a position whereby they cannot play cricket as they would normally do against adult players.
- It is important to note the need for our club and leagues to recognise the positive experience young players should have in open age cricket.
- Our club should provide an opportunity for players to show their talents in an appropriate way.