

The latest news and updates in Safeguarding and EDI

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Introducing the newest members of safeguarding in MITC

#### Safeguarding Conference 18/4

Here all about our recent safeguarding conference at Lord's Cricket Ground

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Important updates to the ECB safeguarding kitbag



## A Huge Thank You!

Amber Wright

I'm thrilled to be writing my first introductory statement for our cricket safeguarding newsletter! It's hard to believe it's already been eight weeks since I stepped into this role, and I've genuinely enjoyed every moment.

I want to extend a huge thank you for the warm welcome and for your continued dedication to safeguarding within our cricketing community. Without your contributions, recreational cricket could not take place I'm really looking forward to working closely with all our clubs to ensure cricket remains a safe, happy, and inclusive game for everyone.

I hope you find this newsletter enjoyable and useful. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me at: [amber.wright@middlesexccc.com](mailto:amber.wright@middlesexccc.com) / 07561 853999



We are confident Raj and Jack will be fantastic assets to our safeguarding framework. Any safeguarding queries should go to [safeguarding@middlesex.com](mailto:safeguarding@middlesex.com)

## Welcome our New Safeguarding Team!

**Meet Our New Deputy County Safeguarding Officers:** Please join us in welcoming our two new Deputy County Safeguarding Officers:

**Raj Nath (MCCC):** Raj will be an additional point of contact and support for matters relating to MCCC.

**Jack Davis (MITC):** Jack will similarly provide dedicated support for MITC.

## Safeguarding Conference

18<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Lords Cricket Ground

We held our annual **Safeguarding Conference, which took place on Friday, April 18, 2025**. This essential event brought together clubs, volunteers, and stakeholders to share best practices, discuss emerging issues, and reinforce our collective commitment to safeguarding. Attendees enjoyed the Glamorgan V Middlesex game as a thank you for the dedicated work they do towards ensuring cricket is safe and inclusive for all.

## Special Guests

**Charlene Kemp**, UK Sales Lead at **Spond**

**Mark Lycett, and Jason Westhorpe** from **Grassroots**

We were lucky enough to have some special guests attend the Safeguarding Conference at Lords. Charlene, from Spond, and Mark and Jason from Grassroots. Both organisations are focused on having safeguarding at the front of everything they do. Please keep reading to find out more about the incredible work they do.





## Safeguarding Training

Online and In-Person Updates

**Safeguarding Level 1 (SGL1)** - which is the current Induction Module, is under review and an updated course will be available later in the year. The current course is still live and available to use until this is completed.

**Safeguarding Level 2 (SGL2)** - is now live! And is the new course from the Cricket Regulator safeguarding team on behalf of the ECB, which has replaced the old Safeguarding for Specialist Roles (SSR) courses. Robust safeguarding helps to keep our cricket community safe and welcoming. This course will provide the learner with what to look out for and how to respond to concerns.

### The Audience:

Coach or activator  
Umpire or Scorer  
Committee Member  
Safeguarding Officer  
Captain or team manager

### The aims and objectives of the course:

Create a safe and inclusive cricket environment  
Describe what a safeguarding concern is  
Respond appropriately to concerns  
Describe how to report and record safeguarding concerns

Thank you for playing your part in creating Safer Cultures across Cricket.

**Safeguarding Level 3 (SGL3)** - the Safe Hands Workshop material is available to all trained ECB Safe Hands Tutors and is under constant review by the proactive safeguarding team. If there are any changes made outside of the yearly update / refresh, you shall be advised.

We look to complete all SGL3 workshops outside of the cricket season. New dates will be coming soon for September/October time.



## Becoming a Club Safeguarding Officer:

Becoming a Cricket Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) is a vital and incredibly rewarding role. At its heart, it means being the first point of contact for any safeguarding concerns within your club, particularly those involving children and vulnerable adults.

While safeguarding is ultimately everyone's responsibility, the CSO is instrumental in ensuring that policies and procedures are in place and that the club upholds its duty of care to all its members. If you are interested in becoming a deputy/club safeguarding officer, please contact Amber Wright on

[amber.wright@middlesexccc.com](mailto:amber.wright@middlesexccc.com)





## Updates to SafeHands Kit-Bag

Within the Safeguarding Kit Bag, you will see some additional or updated guidance / resources now available:

- Clubs Safeguarding Self-Assessment Form
- Open Age Form
- Training Matrix
- Coaching Ratios

### **Recreational Club Safeguarding Self-Assessment:**

The Cricket Regulator have produced an assessment tool that clubs can use to review safeguarding at their club. This is a self-assessment tool which can help clubs identify areas where more can be done to create a safe and welcoming environment.

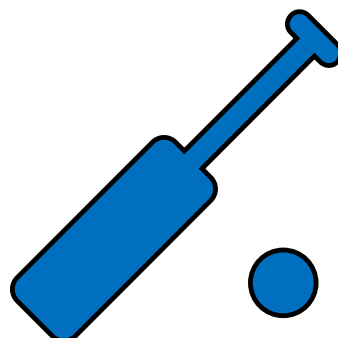
The assessment sheet is available in the Kit Bag : [England and Wales Cricket Board \(ECB\) - The Official Website of the ECB](#)

### **Transporting Children to Cricket Activities:**

In light of recent queries around transporting children to cricket matches, please see the ECBs transporting children to cricket activities policy: [Transporting-Children-to-Cricket-Activities.pdf](#)

The ECB's position is that coaches, staff and volunteers do **NOT** transport children to and from cricket activities. We appreciate that often coaches, staff or volunteers may also be parents of children taking part in cricket activities.

For me information, please contact your club development advisor, alternatively, you can contact [safeguarding@middlesexccc.com](mailto:safeguarding@middlesexccc.com)



## Updates the Safe Hands Management System (SHMS)



ECB are excited to announce upcoming enhancements to the Safe Hands Management System (SHMS), which went live in early May. As part of their ongoing efforts to improve the way club and safeguarding information is tracked and managed, several important updates will be made in the system aimed at improving user experience and compliance management for clubs.

### Key Updates:

- **Expanded Teams Options:** We're introducing more specific categories for teams, replacing the previous broader categories (e.g., Men's, Women's, and Junior Cricket). Clubs will now be able to select from more specific options such as *Boys Junior Hardball Cricket* and *Open-Age Women's Softball Cricket*, providing a more tailored approach to how club activities are represented in the system.
- **New National Programme Option:** Dynamos Cricket will be available as a National Programme selection, alongside All Stars Cricket. This will impact the Activator rule, which applies when clubs are delivering National Programmes.
- **Streamlined Team & Programme Selection:** A new toggle feature will allow clubs to save updates directly on the Teams & Programmes page without needing to navigate through multiple screens. This makes the process to maintain up-to-date information quicker and more intuitive for clubs.
- **Tailored Club Compliance Criteria:** Currently, all compliance rules are displayed in club compliance criteria regardless of the teams & programmes that clubs deliver. We're making updates to ensure the compliance criteria will only display the rules that are specifically relevant to clubs, based on their activities. By filtering out non-applicable rules, this change will make it clearer what each club needs to do to maintain compliance.
- **New In-Platform Guidance:** We're introducing real-time, in-system guidance in the platform. Users will now benefit from step-by-step guidance for actions like user onboarding, reviewing role compliance, and confirming club details. Additionally, helpful tooltips and prompts will make completing tasks easier, and timely notifications will keep users informed about new features and important updates.

For more information, visit the [SHMS Help Centre](#) or click '[Submit a Query](#)' to contact the team.

### Safe Hands FAQ's – Safe Hands



## Safeguarding Level 3/Safe Hands Workshop



Thank you to those that attended the recent in person Safe Hands workshops in March and April. These sessions offer a great insight into safeguarding throughout the game and allows constructive discussions to take place as well as equipping you with all the relevant information to keep everyone safe and happy within your clubs.

### Feedback from on of our sessions:

All sessions for this season are now complete and we will not look to hold anymore until September/October.

If your Safeguarding Level 3 qualification is due to expire prior to this time, please contact [amber.wright@middlesexccc.com](mailto:amber.wright@middlesexccc.com)

**"Good 3 hour session yesterday. Learnt so much and will action with the committee over the next few**

### Listening to Children and Young People

We emphasise the importance of listening to children and young people as a crucial aspect of safeguarding and creating a safe, inclusive environment in cricket. This includes proactively seeking and acting upon their views.

**Shout out to Penny from Ealing Cricket Club who is currently organising a focus group for the clubs children and young players – well done!**

### What things can clubs do to create a proactive listening culture?

#### **Youth-Friendly Policies:**

Translate safeguarding policies and codes of conduct into age-appropriate, easy-to-understand language or even visual formats.

#### **Player Representatives/Youth Forums:**

Establish a youth committee or designate player representatives to sit on club committees. This gives young people a formal platform to share ideas, raise issues, and contribute to decision-making.



**Child-Led Activities/Input:** Allow children to have a say in training drills, team rules, or social activities. This fosters a sense of ownership and shows their opinions are valued.

**Feedback Loops:** When children provide feedback or raise concerns, the club must demonstrate that they have been heard and that action (or a reason for no action) will be taken. Close the loop by communicating outcomes.

**"Suggestion Box":** A physical or digital space where children can anonymously submit ideas for improvements, concerns, or things they enjoy.

## **Spond and Middlesex in the Community Team Up to Support Safeguarding in Cricket**

Spond, the leading digital platform for grassroots club and team management, has announced a strategic partnership with Middlesex in the Community (MITC). The initiative aims to accelerate digital adoption among cricket clubs across the region, with a specific focus on safeguarding players – particularly young people and vulnerable adults – through better communication, visibility and control.

The collaborative partnership gives MCC-affiliated community teams free access to Spond's club and team management platform, with features specifically designed to improve safeguarding outcomes. These include secure communication channels, controlled admin permissions, role-based access to data, attendance tracking, and full visibility over who's involved in every activity. Together, these tools promote transparency, accountability, and peace of mind for everyone involved.

Charlene Kemp, UK Sales Lead for Spond, said: ““We're incredibly proud to be working with Middlesex in the Community on a partnership that prioritises safeguarding as much as it does efficiency. Spond isn't just a digital tool – it's a smarter, safer way to run your club. From managing schedules to ensuring that every child is accounted for at training, our platform helps coaches and volunteers create a more secure environment for their players.”

The agreement reflects a shared ambition to modernise how grassroots cricket is run, ensuring local clubs are equipped with practical, easy-to-use technology. Clubs that sign up to Spond through the partnership will receive dedicated onboarding support, along with access to a series of online and in-person seminars focused on key aspects of club admin – including safeguarding, safe communications, season planning, and volunteer coordination. Spond's integration with the ECB's Play-Cricket platform also ensures smooth alignment with season schedules.

Spond will attend key MITC community events throughout the season, offering live demonstrations and support to clubs interested in making the switch to a digital platform. The partnership will be promoted across both organisations' channels, with case studies and content highlighting how better technology is enabling coaches, parents and volunteers to prioritise wellbeing, protection and peace of mind for their players.

Angus Fraser, former England international and Managing Director of Middlesex in the Community, said: “MITC is committed to supporting the clubs and volunteers who are vital to the future of our game. We're excited to partner with Spond to offer a platform that not only reduces administrative pressure but also strengthens safeguarding across the board. This collaboration is about empowering the people who keep grassroots cricket alive and giving them the digital tools they need to protect, grow, and thrive.”

Spond will also highlight fundraising opportunities available to MITC-affiliated clubs, including access to platforms such as Spond Super draw and Spot the Ball, which are designed to generate revenue with minimal effort. Access will also be offered to Club Website from Spond, giving participating clubs a free, professional online presence that helps them attract players, supporters and sponsors – while maintaining control over how information is shared.

This partnership represents a long-term commitment to equipping grassroots cricket with the digital tools, education, and safeguarding support needed to thrive in a changing sporting landscape. By working together, Spond and Middlesex in the Community aim to unlock the full potential of technology to protect and empower cricket clubs across the county.

## Putting Safeguarding First in Grassroots Cricket

By Charlene Kemp, UK Sales Lead at Spond

As a grassroots cricket coach, you carry more than a clipboard and a box of cones – you carry the responsibility of safeguarding every player who steps onto the field. Whether you're coaching juniors, running disability cricket sessions, or supporting mixed-ability squads, safeguarding isn't just part of the job – it is the job.

At Spond, we work with thousands of grassroots clubs across the UK, and we understand the pressures you face. You're managing fixtures, communicating with parents, organising travel, and sometimes, just trying to keep things afloat. But no matter what, safeguarding must remain a top priority – not just to meet ECB and club standards, but to create a safe and inclusive environment where every player can thrive.

That's why Spond was built with safeguarding at its core. Everything you do in the app – every message, every event, every team member – is structured to support best practice in safeguarding without adding extra admin to your plate.

### Why Safeguarding Matters – Every Time, Every Session

You already know the basics – no one-on-one communication with juniors, always involve a responsible adult, keep everything above board. But in the fast-moving world of grassroots cricket, these principles can be difficult to uphold without the right systems in place.

Whether it's sharing match details, checking medical info, or responding to a last-minute availability update, it's easy for boundaries to blur if you're relying on group chats, text messages or spreadsheets. That's where risks can creep in – and where Spond makes a difference.

### How Spond Helps You Safeguard Every Player

**Guardian-First Access:** When you add an under-18 player to Spond, you don't add the child – you add their parent or carer. That adult becomes the main point of contact. You never need to message a junior directly, and the child doesn't need their own account to be involved. It's simple, secure and puts guardians in control.

**Shareable Access for Trusted Adults:** We also know that many children rely on more than one adult. With Spond, parents can share access with grandparents, stepparents or childminders, so everyone stays in the loop. It's inclusive, practical, and ensures no one is left out of the communication chain.

**Complete Transparency:** Everything you send through Spond is logged. Messages can't be edited or deleted. As a coach, that protects you and your players. Group admins can view communication histories, giving your club full oversight and peace of mind.

**Consent Management:** From matchday transport to photos and video permissions, you need the right consents to run your team safely. Spond lets you collect and manage these digitally, linked directly to each player. You'll always know who's opted in – and what to avoid.



**Custom Group Permissions:** You control who can message the group, who can post photos, and whether replies are allowed. This is especially important in teams with vulnerable or disabled players, where communication needs to be handled with additional care.

**Alignment with ECB and Club Policy:** We've developed our safeguarding guidance in line with ECB Safe Hands, Sport England best practice, and club-level requirements across the UK. When you use Spond, you're aligning with national standards and making life easier for your club welfare

## The Bigger Picture

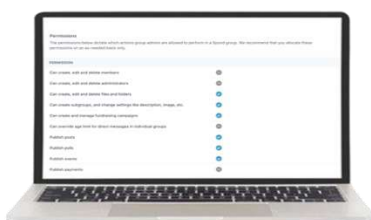
Good safeguarding isn't just about avoiding issues – it's about building a culture of trust. When parents see that you're using a dedicated platform with built-in safeguarding features, their confidence grows. When players feel protected and supported, their enjoyment of the game increases. And when safeguarding is embedded into your everyday admin, it becomes second nature.

At Spond, we believe that safeguarding should never be an afterthought. As a cricket coach, you deserve tools that support your duty of care, rather than adding to your workload. That's exactly what Spond is designed to do.

If you're not already using Spond to manage your cricket team, now is the time. Let us help you make safeguarding simpler, stronger, and always front and centre.

## Spond Safeguarding features

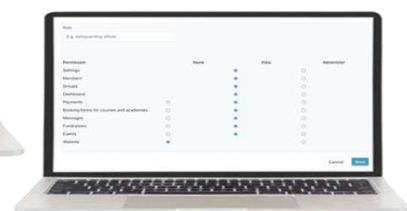
Control what member data is visible to different committee and team roles



Set direct messaging age limits and hide member contact information



Set view and administration permissions for club roles and committee members



## SPOND PRODUCT DEMO

Hosted by Charlene



Tuesdays & Wednesdays

Join one of our weekly demos to learn how Spond simplifies administration and communication so you can focus on the game!



## Book a product demo



## Download our FREE app



## Equality, Diversity and Inclusion News

### Johan de Silva, MITC EDI Officer

Middlesex in the Community is unwavering in its commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI). We firmly believe that cricket should be a sport for everyone, regardless of their background, identity, or circumstances. Our dedication to EDI isn't just a policy; it's woven into the very fabric of our operations and outreach, driving our efforts to create a truly welcoming and accessible environment for all.

### EDI News:

We are actively looking to upskill all our staff on EDI, with attendance at recent EDI Leads Day, South Asian Heritage Month Event at Edgbaston and most recently, the LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in Cricket Conference held in Derbyshire.



### MITC Staff Training:

The team are undergoing EDI training, provided by AKD solutions - on a variety of topics.

### Antisemitism Workshop:

MITC are hosting Maccabi GB training on Antisemitism on 26<sup>th</sup> June at Lords Cricket Ground. We welcome club individuals to be present at this so if interested, please contact [jds@middlesexccc.com](mailto:jds@middlesexccc.com)



If you are interested in being involved in the EDI space within Middlesex more generally, or as part of a MITC Board Working Group, please let [jds@middlesexccc.com](mailto:jds@middlesexccc.com) know.

we are looking especially for those with lived-in / professional EDI expertise to contribute and shape our **People & Culture Strategy** moving forward.