1. Safeguarding and Child Protection

Purpose and commitment

Chris Mann Cricket Coaching is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and respectful environment for every child and young person taking part in coaching, Academy activities, clinics or related events. The welfare of the child comes first. No player should experience abuse, neglect, bullying, discrimination, humiliation or inappropriate behaviour in connection with our activities.

Who this applies to

This policy applies to the owner, employees, assistant coaches, contractors, volunteers, coach-development participants and anyone acting on behalf of the business. It applies at all venues, online, during travel and at any event organised by the business.

Recognising and responding to concerns

Concerns may relate to physical, emotional or sexual abuse, neglect, grooming, bullying, exploitation, unsafe practice or a disclosure made by a child. Listen calmly, take the child seriously, do not promise secrecy, do not ask leading questions and do not investigate. Record the child's words as accurately as possible, including date, time, people present and any immediate action taken.

Reporting

Report concerns promptly to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Chris Mann. The DSL will follow current ECB guidance and refer to children's social care, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), the police or other relevant authority when appropriate. If a child is in immediate danger or a crime may be in progress, call 999. If the concern involves the DSL or business owner, bypass that person and report directly to the relevant external authority.

Confidentiality and records

Share information only with people who need it to protect the child or respond appropriately. Keep safeguarding records factual, dated, secure and separate from general coaching notes. Do not promise an outcome or confront an alleged person responsible. Preserve relevant messages or evidence without circulating them.

Review and training

All coaches must understand this policy, complete required safeguarding training and know the reporting route before working with children. The policy will be reviewed at least annually and after a safeguarding incident or relevant guidance change.