

SELF-REFERAL/REPORTING

Introduction

Safeguarding is a fundamental responsibility for those working within cricket, ensuring that all participants—especially children and vulnerable adults—are protected from harm.

Coaches play a pivotal role in creating a safe environment. A safe environment also ensures coaches are not at risk of harm. One of the most effective ways to uphold safeguarding standards is through self-referral when concerns arise.

A coach might self-refer if they are uncertain about their actions in a specific situation, are concerned about potential misinterpretation of their behaviour, or need guidance on best practices to ensure they are working safely.

Reasons for Self-Referral

Legal and Ethical Duty

- Coaches have a duty of care to protect players from harm.
- Self-referral demonstrates compliance with safeguarding legislation and ECB guidelines.

Transparency and Accountability

- Reporting concerns promptly shows integrity and commitment to safeguarding.
- It reduces the risk of allegations of concealment or negligence.

Early Intervention

- Addressing issues early prevents escalation.
- Ensures timely support for individuals at risk.

Protecting All Parties

- Safeguards the welfare of the child or vulnerable adult.
- Protects the coach from potential false allegations by showing proactive action.



Benefits of Self-Referral

Self-referral processes offer substantial benefits for both coaches and the individuals they support, primarily by fostering a culture of safety, trust, and accountability.

Promotes a Culture of Safety

- Encourages openness and trust within Wiltshire Cricket.
- Sets a positive example for other coaches and volunteers.

Access to Expert Support

- Self-referral triggers involvement from safeguarding professionals.
- Coaches receive guidance on handling complex situations.

Maintains Reputation of the Sport

- Demonstrates Wiltshire Cricket's commitment to safeguarding.
- Builds confidence among parents, players, and the wider community.

Personal and Professional Development

- Coaches learn best practices for safeguarding.
- Enhances understanding of boundaries and responsibilities.

Self-referral is not an admission of wrongdoing—it is a proactive step that prioritizes the safety and well-being of everyone involved in cricket. By embracing this practice, coaches help create a secure, transparent, and trusted environment within Wiltshire Cricket.