



Cricket Wales

Safer Recruitment Policy

| Version | Author | Revision date | Summary of Changes | Endorsed by Cricket Wales Board date |
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| 0.2 | Linda Medlicott (DSL) | 20/02/2024 | In line with Safeguarding together and NSPCC best practice guidance. | 20 Feb 2024 |

This policy will be reviewed annually or when there is a legislative change or review due to lessons learnt or best practice guidance.

1. Introduction
2. Equal opportunities
3. Roles and responsibilities
4. Advertising and the initial process of recruiting
 - 4.1. Advertising
 - 4.2. Job description and Criminal Record Checking
 - 4.3. Application Pack
5. Received applications and short-listing
 - 5.1. Handling applications
 - 5.2. References
 - 5.3. Shortlisting
6. Interview process
 - 6.1. Interview programme.
 - 6.2. During the interview
7. Candidate selection
 - 7.1. Final selection meeting
 - 7.2. Contacting referees by telephone
 - 7.3. Communicating the outcome
8. New employee administration and induction
 - 8.1. Pre-employment vetting checks and commencing employment.
 - 8.2. The single central record
 - 8.3. Vetting checks, Identity checks and right to work.
 - 8.4. Barred list.
 - 8.5. Qualifications
 - 8.6. Disqualification
 - 8.7. Induction
 - 8.8. Record retention/data protection.
 - 8.9. Ongoing employment
 - 8.10. Monitoring
 - 8.11. Leaving employment
 - 8.12. Use of contractors
 - 8.13. Volunteers
9. Cricket Wales Contact Details

1. Introduction

Who we are:

Cricket Wales is one of 39 County Cricket Boards that make up the England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and is also recognised by Sport Wales and Welsh Government as the National Governing Body for cricket in Wales.

Our Aims and Vision:

Cricket Wales is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all, especially children, to enjoy the game.

The purpose of this recruitment and selection policy is to ensure the practice of safe and equitable recruitment and deployment of staff and volunteers, ensuring the process is conducted in a fair, effective and economic manner and to ensure those that are responsible for each stage of the recruitment process demonstrate a professional approach by dealing honestly, efficiently and fairly with all internal and external applicants.

Cricket Wales is committed to attracting, selecting and retaining the best possible employees who will successfully and positively contribute to providing a valuable service. A motivated and committed workforce with appropriate knowledge, skills, experience and ability to do the job is critical to Cricket Wales performance and fundamental to the delivery of a high-quality service to our clubs and participants.

The recruitment and selection process will seek to identify the person best suited to the job based on the applicant's abilities, qualifications, experience and merit, measured against a clear job description and person specification for each role.

The procedure outlined within this policy is endorsed by the Cricket Wales Board.

Cricket Wales is committed to working alongside our 190+ clubs plus, leagues and associations involving almost 25,000 people make up Cricket Wales. These include Cricket Clubs & Communities; Senior Leagues; Junior Leagues; Cricket Groundskeeper's Associations (CGA's); Wales Association of Cricket Officials; Wales National County and ECB Coaches Association to further develop safeguarding best practices. Further information, guidance and templates that are made available to support our community in this area. These are all available on the [safer recruitment](#) page of the ECB Website.

2. Equal opportunities

Cricket Wales is committed to providing the quality of opportunity for all and to ensuring that all stages of recruitment and selection are consistent, transparent and fair. Recruitment and selection procedures will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that applicants are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, nationality, gender, religion, age, disability, marital status or sexual orientation. Cricket Wales will ensure that equal opportunities are promoted in line with its [Equality Policy](#).

3. Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the CEO to ensure the organisation has effective policies and procedures in place for recruitment of all staff, contractors, volunteers and agency workers in accordance with legal requirements and guidance. This individual will also monitor compliance.

It is the responsibility of the CEO, Designated Safeguarding Lead and others involved in recruitment to ensure that the organisation operates safer recruitment procedures and makes sure all appropriate checks are carried out on all staff, contractors who work for the organisation, agency workers and volunteers before the work or volunteering commences. Responsibilities also include monitoring contractors' and agencies' compliance with this document and ensuring that a focus is maintained

upon ensuring a safe and appropriate workforce in line with Cricket Wales commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at Risk (See Cricket Wales Safeguarding Portfolio of Policies and Procedures [here](#)).

Note: *All line managers should be aware that satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosures must be received for all new staff who are taking up Regulated Positions, completed England and Wales Cricket Board ECB safeguarding modules, and receipt of two references before being allowed to start employment.*

Any DBS issues/content will be assessed by The ECB Safeguarding Regulator. All offers of employment in a role that meets the Regulated Activity criteria must be conditional on receipt of a satisfactory DBS disclosure.

4. Advertising and the initial process of recruiting

4.1. Advertising

The following procedures and practices are in place to ensure the safe recruitment of staff and to ensure equality of opportunity. Cricket Wales will generally advertise vacant posts to encourage as wide a field of applicants as possible. Normally this entails internal and external advertisement in relevant publications or websites, including the organisations own website. Any advertisement will include a clear statement of the organisations commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults.

Example statement: 'Cricket Wales believes that Safeguarding is an essential element that is central to all we do. Every, child, young person and adult have the right to feel safe and included in all that they do, and this means ensuring we have the right people working within our organisation by following a robust safe recruitment process. Cricket Wales strive to make cricket in Wales a safe and enjoyable place for 'everyone' to experience at all levels of the game.

The advert will also require proof that the applicant has the right to work in the UK.

4.2. Job description and Criminal Record Checking

The job description outlines the general nature of the post including the main duties and responsibilities and it will identify the line manager for the post. It also incorporates the person specification (qualifications, attributes and skills required) and it is these criteria that are used as short-listing criteria by those scrutinising the applications. Other information included is a description of the department, background information to the post, further details such as closing date, salary, etc.

Cricket Wales endorses the use of The ECB Criminal Records Checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure appropriate assessment for clearance for work in cricket for those working with children, young people or vulnerable groups.

The criminal records checking process (externally processed on behalf of the ECB) includes those roles which are defined by law as a Regulated Activity, or those roles for which the National Governing Body (NGB), that is the ECB, has identified to require Enhanced Disclosures in cricket. These are defined as unsupervised roles in cricket which involve teaching, training and instruction or caring for and supervising.

Cricket Wales complies with the DBS and the ECB Criminal Records Body Code of Practice and seeks to treat all applicants for positions fairly. Cricket Wales undertakes not to discriminate unfairly against any subject of a disclosure on the basis of a conviction or other information revealed.

Cricket Wales is committed to safeguarding children, to the fair treatment of its staff/prospective employees and to equality of opportunity for all. We will select candidates for interview based on their skills, qualifications and experience. A DBS disclosure is requested only after consideration has been given to the roles and responsibilities included in the Job Description. Any decision to request a disclosure will be relevant to the position concerned. For those positions where

an enhanced disclosure is required, the recruitment documents used will contain a statement that a disclosure will be requested in the event of the individual being offered the position as follows:

“This post requires Enhanced Criminal Records Checks and checks against the Barred Lists and is exempt from Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (1974). Therefore, all convictions including spent convictions that have not been subject to filtering by the DBS should be declared”.

The definition of ‘spent conviction’ has changed in recent years, for further information on if a conviction is considered ‘spent’ go to: <https://www.gov.uk/exoffenders-and-employment>

Where a disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record, if any, at an early stage in the application process. A self-disclosure form is included in the application pack too support this process.

We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover, to Cricket Wales Safeguarding Lead (DSL) one of the other safeguarding officers in our team (see Section 9) who will be named in the recruitment process. We recognise the importance of confidentiality in relation to this sensitive information and therefore this information will only be seen by those who need to see it as part of the recruitment process.

Having a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an individual from working with Cricket Wales. An informed risk assessment will be completed by the ECB safeguarding regulator team of all of the information gathered through the recruitment process, including any offending history, will be undertaken in relation to the role and responsibilities applied for before any decision is made about suitability.

More information on the recruitment of offenders

4.3. Application Pack

Cricket Wales application pack will supply prospective candidates with the following:

- application form
- job description.
- self-declaration form (where applicable)

Cricket Wales uses its own application form. All applicants for employment are required to complete this form before their application can be considered. This form contains questions about their academic achievements and full employment history. All applicants are required to account for any gaps or discrepancies in employment history and provide reasons for moving between posts. CVs without an application form will not be accepted.

The application form includes the applicant’s declaration regarding convictions and working with children and will make it clear that the post is exempt from the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

All applicants will be made aware that providing false information is an offence and could result in the application being rejected or summary dismissal if the applicant has been selected and possible referral to the police and other professional regulatory bodies.

It will be communicated that the application form should be accompanied by a covering letter, when requested, outlining the applicant’s suitability for the role.

Advertising and job descriptions will be bilingually produced and sent to networks on the Cricket Wales recruitment checklist document.

5. Received applications and short-listing

5.1. Handling applications

- Applications submitted via email will receive acknowledgement email from the Cricket Wales administrator.
- All applications will have personal identification details redacted so that the shortlisting process can be anonymised.
- All applications should be initially scrutinised by a member of staff who has completed safer recruitment training. Any applicant who has not completed the Cricket Wales' application form in full will be asked to do so if they wish to have their application considered further.
- All those involved in the short-listing process have a responsibility to scrutinise the application forms and letters of application carefully. In addition to judging the application against the criteria for the post, anyone noticing an anomaly should make a written note to that effect.
- The relevant senior managers and hiring managers will be responsible for collating a list of all applications as they arrive.
- The relevant senior managers and hiring managers will have specific responsibility for ensuring that a thorough scrutiny of the application has taken place, as per safer recruitment guidelines, prior to the interview. This should include a month-by-month record of employment since leaving education/school to the present date. Any gaps should be noted and followed up either immediately before or at interview. This scrutiny will form part of the specific questions regarding safeguarding during the formal interview process.

5.2. References

References of applicants who meet the short-listing criteria will be taken up, where possible, before interview unless this would compromise the applicant's current employment situation. Referees a resent the following:

- standard letter via email
- a copy of the job description

Referees must include the most recent employer as well as the most recent employer who is able to indicate whether the applicant is suitable and appropriate to work with children or young people if relevant to the role applied for. Open references or references that are solely character references from close family members or friends are not acceptable.

Where a reference appears inadequate or incomplete, invites further contact, or contains conflicting information, contact should be made by a designated member of staff by telephone, to probe further.

The referee's copy of the job description should not include the salary details where a precise figure or hourly rate is included.

5.3. Shortlisting

Following the closing date, a panel will independently scrutinise applications further using a selection matrix when necessary (a simple format, cross-referencing candidates against the criteria in the job description and the person specification).

In addition to judging the application form against the criteria for the post, anyone noticing an anomaly in the information provided will make a written note to that effect to be followed up at interview if applicable.

The final shortlist will be drawn up by the relevant senior managers and hiring managers at a short-listing meeting. In the case of a coaching vacancy this meeting will normally be chaired by the relevant senior manager or the Head of Talent Pathway or the relevant team. In the case of support staff, it will be the relevant regional area manager. The short-listing meeting normally takes place within five days of the closing deadline. All those involved in the interview process should attend this meeting. Those unable to do so should send written recommendations to this meeting on the selection matrix.

6. Interview process

All short-listed candidates are contacted by email to invite them to attend an interview and to ensure their availability. This will be completed by the Cricket Wales' administrator and the content of the email to follow the checklist template.

The candidate will be required to demonstrate their skill in the area advertised by way of a competency questions and where relevant a presentation or a possible demonstration to the interview board.

6.1. Interview programme.

The interview process will explore the applicant's ability to carry out the job description and meet the person specification.

The programme may include:

- tour of the department or area that the individual is going to work within
- practical exercise - Coaching, Physio or Cricket environment - usually observed by the relevant hiring manager.
- Interview

Core questions to be asked of all candidates will be agreed by all interviewers prior to interview to ensure consistency, as well as any specific questions relating to an individual's application.

6.2. During the interview

Candidates will always be required to:

- explain satisfactorily any gaps in employment or significant periods of time working or living abroad.
- explain satisfactorily any anomalies or discrepancies in the information available to the interviewers.
- demonstrate their capacity to safeguard and protect the welfare of children and young people.

A record will be made of responses and of any questions asked by the interviewee.

During the interview process relevant qualifications etc. will be scrutinised and checked by the relevant hiring manager. Copies taken will be dated and signed to show that originals have been seen.

Any information in relation to past disciplinary action, allegations, cautions, investigations or convictions will be discussed and considered in the circumstances of the individual case during the interview process.

7. Candidate selection

7.1. Final selection meeting

This is held as soon as possible after the interview candidates have departed. This meeting involves all those involved in the selection/interview process. A record of decision making to appoint an individual ahead of others must be noted, to ensure that there is a record to provide clear honest feedback to the unsuccessful candidate/s if required.

Interviewers bring any notes they have made with them (including presentation/demonstration observations if applicable); these are collected and put with the application file at the end of the process. All notes are stored for a minimum of 6 months. Notes regarding the successful candidate are transferred to their personnel file.

7.2. Contacting referees by telephone

If there are any queries around information provided on a reference direct contact will be made to speak with the referee in order to explore further areas on the reference that require further clarification before evaluating the response.

An accurate record of the telephone call should be made (the written references should be annotated, dated and initialled).

7.3. Communicating the outcome

The hiring manager or appointed member of the recruitment team will telephone the successful candidate as soon as possible.

If verbal acceptance is received, the letter of appointment together with the contract of employment is drafted and the line manager will approve and sign the letter.

All verbal and written offers (including those made by email) must state that it is a provisional offer, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references (if two satisfactory references are not received prior to interview) and criminal record (DBS) checks. Where these have not been confirmed it will also state that the offer is subject to verification of identity, proof of right to work in the UK, presentation of original copies of any qualifications having been seen and confirmation of medical fitness for the post. When a letter of acceptance is received unsuccessful candidates will be notified by the hiring manager. If the role is for CEO the Board chair will oversee this process.

If the successful candidate declines the offer of the post, the selection committee reconvenes. Unsuccessful shortlisted candidates are generally not contacted, and this is stated at the time of application.

8. New employee administration and induction

A detailed checklist will be used to track and audit paperwork obtained in accordance with Safer Recruitment guidelines. This checklist will be retained on personal files.

8.1. Pre-employment vetting checks and commencing employment.

A new appointee should not commence employment until all criteria have been met. The process of checking qualifications, verifying identity and prohibitions, suitability of a newly appointed member of staff must be logged carefully on the club's Single Central Register including and vetting checks determined by whether an individual will be involved in regulated activity. All relevant records will be held on the company's online HR system.

All staff and managers will be checked for the following:

- those that have been prohibited from participating in cricket.
- those that have failed to successfully complete their induction or probation period.
- those that may be the subject of a suspension or conditional order imposed by the ECB that is current.

In addition to a safeguarding check, all successful applicants who are offered a permanent full or part time position, must complete a social media check themselves and disclose any relevant or concerning findings from this report to Cricket Wales.

8.2. The single central record

In addition to the various staff records kept on the company's online HR system, and on individual personnel files, a single central record of recruitment and vetting checks is kept in accordance with ECB requirements. This is kept up to date by the Cricket Wales' administrator.

The single central record contains details of the following:

- all employees who are employed to work for Cricket Wales

- all employees who are employed as staff to Cricket Wales whether employed directly or on a voluntary basis.
- all others who have been appointed to positions by Cricket Wales directly which have regular contact with children and young people. This will cover volunteers, staff and people brought into the organisation to provide additional coaching or instruction for participants but who are not staff members e.g. sports coaches, guest speakers etc.

8.3. Vetting checks, Identity checks and right to work.

All applicants invited to attend an interview at Cricket Wales head office will be required to bring their identification documentation such as: passport; birth certificate, driving licence etc. with them as proof of identity/eligibility to work in the UK in accordance with those set out in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 and the DBS Code of Practice Regulations. Copies of these original documents should be taken, dated and signed to verify that the originals have been seen and these should be retained on personnel files.

For All employees of Cricket Wales that are in regulated activity and therefore the Enhanced DBS Disclosure, including barred list check will be required (see section 4.2. above).

The Cricket Wales' administrator should write directly to the successful candidate regarding arrangements for an enhanced disclosure application from the Disclosure and Barring Service. This is before any start date, and as soon as practicable after an appointment, but no earlier than three months before employment commences.

It is the ECB's policy to require all staff and volunteers to renew their DBS check via the update service every 12 months.

Members of Cricket Wales staff should be made aware of their obligation to inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead of any cautions or convictions that arise between these checks taking place. Any employee who is convicted of, or cautioned for, any offence during their employment must immediately notify in writing the CEO and/ or Designated Safeguarding Lead of the offence and penalty. This requirement will be integrated into their contract of employment.

8.4. Barred list.

A separate barred list check must be undertaken in the event that an enhanced disclosure is not received in advance of a member of staff starting work in regulatory activity. It is illegal for Cricket Wales to employ anyone who is on the barred list to work within regulated activity.

8.5. Qualifications

New employees will be asked to bring in original documents or certificates of relevant registration, training or qualifications so that copies can be lodged on their personnel file.

8.6. Disqualification

Under the Childcare Act 2006 and the Childcare (Disqualification) Regulations 2009 staff can be disqualified, including by association, from working in or being concerned in the management of childcare. Any employee likely to fall into this category completes a declaration form and is asked to keep the Designated Safeguarding Lead informed of any changes in their personal circumstances.

8.7. Induction

All new staff will be required to undertake induction training. This will include:

- induction meeting and briefing with their team leader.
- safeguarding training: relevant to their role ECB online module and a in house session with the Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy in their absence.
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion ECB online module

- provision of key safeguarding policies: the staff code of conduct; equality policy; and the Speak up Speak Out policy.

8.8. Record retention/data protection.

All interview notes for applicants will be retained for a period of 6 months after which time the notes will be destroyed (i.e. shredded). The six-month retention period is in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and will also allow the club to manage and respond to any data access requests, recruitment complaints or to respond to any complaints made to an employment tribunal.

8.9. Ongoing employment

It is recognised that safer recruitment and selection is not just about the start of employment but should be part of a larger policy framework for all staff. Cricket Wales will therefore identify and provide appropriate ongoing training and support for all staff, as identified through the annual review/appraisal procedure.

8.10. Monitoring

The relevant line manager and Designated Safeguarding Lead hold responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy and the single central register.

8.11. Leaving employment

All staff leaving employment will be invited to attend an exit interview at which time an exit questionnaire will be completed by the employee and line manager. This will be forwarded to CEO for retention monitoring purposes and also to be included in the individual's personnel file.

8.12. Use of contractors

Contractors that are used within Cricket Wales activities or head office should comply with the organisation's safeguarding and safer recruitment requirements.

8.13. Volunteers

Volunteers who are working within Cricket Wales activities will be subject to the same employment and vetting checks as paid staff subject to assessment of their role and responsibilities and whether they will be working in any unsupervised capacity. Volunteer roles will be assessed to see whether they fall within regulated activity and, if so, they will be subject to completion of identity checks, an application form, and an enhanced disclosure from the DBS will be applied for. They will also be asked for references and will require an interview. All checks carried out will be recorded on the single central register.

Regular volunteers receive a letter of agreement confirming that they will not be asked to take sole responsibility for any individual players or teams and that they should always have the support of a member of staff and work under their supervision, support and guidance. The allocated member of staff is identified in this letter.

All volunteers are required to read the staff code of conduct and the safeguarding policy to acknowledge in writing that they have understood these and agree to comply with them.

9. Cricket Wales Contact Details

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Linda Medicott linda.medlicott@cricketwales.org.uk