

Head Protector Directives



1 In these Directives, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. "CIDC" means CI's Discipline Committee;
- B. "Compliant Headgear" shall mean head protectors or (for wicket-keepers only) face masks, which have been certified as compliant with the most recent BSI Standard specification for the size of ball that is being used in that Match, including any alterations to such headgear which are specifically permitted pursuant to Regulation 5;
- C. "Match" shall mean any match covered by Regulation 2 below;
- D. "Provincial Union" shall mean any Provincial Union which is a constituent member of CI;
- E. "Regulated Activity" shall mean each of those Match activities detailed in Regulation 3; and
- F. "Relevant Participating Cricketer" shall mean any player participating in a Match for a relevant team as detailed in Regulation 2, including but not limited to any substitute fielder.

2 These Regulations shall apply to all cricketers undertaking any Regulated Activity for any team in the following matches (save where expressly limited below to cricketers from only one of the participating teams):

- A. for any Ireland international team in any of its matches (including Men's, Women's, Wolves and Under 19 teams);
- B. in Inter-Provincial Series matches;
- C. in Women's Super Series matches;
- D. Future Series matches
- E. Youth Inter-Provincial matches

3 It shall be mandatory for all Relevant Participating Cricketers to wear Compliant Headgear when undertaking the following activities in any Match:

- A. Batting against all types of bowling;
- B. Wicket-keeping when standing up to the wicket; and
- C. Fielding in a position closer than 8 yards from the batter's position on the popping crease on a middle stump line, with the exception of any fielding position behind square of the wicket on the off side.

4 In respect of all Matches covered by Regulations 2a to 2c inclusive, the Match umpires shall have the following responsibilities and powers in respect of headgear pursuant to these Regulations:

- A. the Match umpires shall be responsible for ensuring that a head protector (or for wicket-keepers only a face mask) is worn by every Relevant Participating Cricketer when he/she is undertaking any of the Regulated Activities (but shall not be responsible for ensuring that the headgear being worn by the Relevant Participating Cricketer is Compliant Headgear); and
- B. in the event that a Relevant Participating Cricketer fails to wear a head protector or (for wicket-keepers only) a face mask when seeking to undertake a Regulated Activity, the Match umpires shall not allow the Match to continue.

5 A head protector or face mask shall not be deemed to be Compliant Headgear if it is altered in any way which is inconsistent with any guidance or instructions provided by the relevant manufacturer or in a way which otherwise reduces the safety protection provided by the relevant head protector (for example, the removal of the chin-cup) or face protector

6 It shall be the joint responsibility of each Relevant Participating Cricketer and Provincial Union or club (as applicable) for which he/she plays to ensure that he/she wears Compliant Headgear at all times when undertaking any Regulated Activity in any Match. Notwithstanding the umpire powers pursuant to Regulation 4, in the event that a Relevant Participating Cricketer is alleged to be in breach of Regulation 3 or fails to act immediately on an umpire's instruction to wear a head protector or face mask (as applicable) pursuant to Regulation 4, the Relevant Participating Cricketer and his/her Provincial Union, team or club (as applicable) may be referred to the CIDC for disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the CIDC Regulations.

As of 1st April 2016 the latest BSI Standard specification for head protectors for cricketers is BS7928:2013 and the latest BSI Standard specification for facemasks is BS7928-2:2009. To be compliant for Women's cricket a head protector must have been certified as compliant with the most recent BSI Standard specification against both the men's and junior sized ball. Further guidance regarding head protectors can be found at: <http://www.ecb.co.uk/helmets> including the list of known head protectors that have met BS7928:2013

In addition to the mandatory requirements on Relevant Participating Cricketers in Matches under these Regulations, it is strongly recommended that all Relevant Participating Cricketers and their coaches wear Compliant Headgear in any practice environments which are similar or equivalent to any of the Regulated Activities (including without limitation the throwing or feeding of practice balls to a batter from less than the length of a pitch).

CI Guidance Note: Safety measures for helmets within recreational cricket

The purpose of this brief note is to assist Leagues and Clubs at the recreational level to understand these changes and what they mean.

Players over the age of 18

CI and all Provincial Unions strongly recommend that all adult recreational cricketers should wear a head protector for certain activities, preferably which meet the most recent British Safety Standard (see below). This recommendation applies to batting against all types of bowling, wicket-keepers standing up to the wicket (who may as an alternative wear face protectors) and fielders fielding closer than eight yards from the batter's middle stump, except behind the wicket on the off side.

[Refer to laws of cricket regarding head protectors and consequences of non-compliance].

Under 18s

The position in relation to U18s currently remains unchanged, and is governed by CI's 'Young Cricketer Directives'. In essence all batters, and wicket-keepers standing up to the stumps, must wear head protection when playing or practicing. That Directive should be referred to in full for the position in relation to U18s.

British Safety Standard

The latest British Safety Standard is **BS7928:2013** (for both adults and juniors). The full list of helmets/head protectors meeting this standard is available at www.ecb.co.uk/helmets. For wicket-keeping face protectors, the relevant British Safety Standard is **BS7929-2:2009** (again, for both adults and juniors).

CI understands that there is currently no specific women's head protector and as a consequence no specific standard for women's cricket head protector. As the size of the standard women's cricket ball is between the standard men and junior balls, it is recommended that women use head protectors that have been tested against both the men's and junior sized ball, or at least against the junior size ball (as that could potentially get through the gap above the face guard on a men's head protector).

What do Leagues and Clubs need to do?

Whilst it is strongly recommended that all adult recreational cricketers wear head protectors in the on-field circumstances detailed above, it is not mandatory for them to do so. For the avoidance of doubt, Leagues or Clubs do not need to go above and beyond CI's recommendation by forcing their cricketers to wear head protectors.

However, Leagues and Clubs in recreational cricket should ensure that their cricketers are made aware of CI's above recommendation in relation to head protectors, including the need to check that any newly purchased head protectors meet the latest British Safety Standard. CI recommends that Leagues and Clubs bring the link above (i.e www.ecb.co.uk/helmets) to the attention of their cricketers and encourage all cricketers to carefully consider their own health and safety regarding head protector use.

Leagues and Clubs should always ensure that they have adequate public liability insurance.

Cricket Ireland April 2026