**Safety Guidance on the Wearing of Cricket Helmets by Young Players**

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) issued safety guidance on the wearing of helmets by young players up to the age of 18, the guidance recommends that:

• Helmets with a faceguard or grille should be worn when batting against a hard cricket ball in matches and in practice sessions

• Young players should regard a helmet with a faceguard as a normal item of protective equipment when batting, together with pads, gloves and, for boys, an abdominal protector (box)

• Young wicket keepers should wear a helmet with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector when standing up to the stumps. With the assistance of schools, cricket clubs and leagues, the wearing of helmets by young players is now standard practice in cricket throughout England and Wales. Helmets and Face Protectors are widely available and are covered by British Standards.

• Original guidance allowed parents or guardians to give their written consent to allow a young player not to wear a helmet. This option no longer applies.

• This guidance applies to all players up to the age of 18, both in adult cricket and in all junior cricket played with a hard cricket ball.

• The guidance also applies during all practice sessions. Any individual taking responsibility for players must take all reasonable steps to ensure that this guidance is followed at all times.

• Young players are not allowed to bat or stand up to the stumps when keeping wicket against a hard ball without wearing appropriate protection.