



Cricket Federation for People
with Disabilities

www.cfpd.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1046858

The Cricket Club and Cricketers with Disabilities



The Wildgoose Way

Altering people's lives through sport
Members of the ECB Disability Management Committee

1. Although I am a qualified ECB Coach, I am nervous about coaching players with disabilities. What is it like?

We all have experienced these feelings when coaching any group for the first time. Feel assured that those feelings very quickly disappear the moment you make contact with your players. Why? Because you soon realise they are just players who happen to have a disability: they are fun to work with and keen to do well. It may be useful to have an assistant at each session, who can help with fielding balls, etc. Coach with enthusiasm and you will be amazed at the way cricketers with disabilities can play.

Cricket for all is a key driver in the ECB and developing a strategy for cricketers with disabilities as important as developing other players. Look to local disabled cricket clubs (further details available from CFPD, BACD (British Association for Cricketers with Disabilities) or LCCA (London Community Cricket Association)) who may be able to assist with information on training.

2. Will we need to have CRB check?

Anybody who works with children and/or vulnerable adults needs to hold a valid Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. So that you can demonstrate that disability cricket organisations who are recognised by ECB are meeting their obligations.

The following key people in all clubs need to hold a current CRB clearance.

- Managers
- Coaches
- Captains
- Coaches Assistants

In addition to the above anybody within the organisation/club that undertakes any role that puts them in regular contact with children or vulnerable adults needs to have a CRB clearance .

They also need to have a defined role – using the phrase Volunteer on the CRB form will mean it will be rejected.

3. Is it best to hold the first few sessions indoors or outdoors?

Generally, we coach indoors in the winter and outdoors during the cricket season but it is up to the organiser of the session, in consultation with the coach.

Note that if your group has players with severe learning disabilities, you need to ensure they cannot wander off, hence another reason why an assistant is needed at coaching sessions! Safety must always be considered first.

4. Should parents and carers assist in the sessions?

Many parents and carers will be keen to support their child play cricket, especially if it is a sport they enjoy anyway. So, if help is offered, just like with anyone else in the club, use it. Parents and carers may be needed to help assist players in wheelchairs – perhaps moving wheelchairs on pitch, collecting balls, etc – or helping players with learning disabilities – to watch for balls coming towards players if their reactions are slow. In addition, others may offer support in preparing teas, fundraising events, welfare roles, assisting with transport and so on.

5. Are you able to provide assistance and advice on development and coaching?

Yes, we are able to give advice on coaching and development. We are generally able to assist in at least your first coaching session and provide coaching and development books upon request. The books have been designed for easy reading.

6. What equipment do I need?

A variety of equipment is useful in order to be able to provide bats and balls appropriate to the level of disability. Kwik Cricket Sets with windballs and tennis balls can be used in early coaching sessions. The Easton Incrediball is used for matches. ECB CA coaches can order the following through their CDO.

The ECB inform coaches that tennis balls can cause eye damage when struck very hard, **so use for catching and fielding purposes only.**

- First Aid Kit No 581.
- Kwik Cricket Kit K001.
- Kinder Set K007; For Juniors and players with very weak upper body strength.
- Windballs C014.
- One Set of Training Cones W511.

Tennis balls can be bought very cheaply and indeed some are available from cricket shops with a seam down the middle.

The ECB inform coaches that tennis balls can cause eye damage when struck very hard, **so use for catching and fielding purposes only.**

Players often purchase their own bats or helmet and should be encouraged to write their names in permanent pen on their own equipment.

7. Will wheelchairs damage the wicket?

In normal conditions, the answer is no. A 12-stone fast bowler jumping into his delivery stride will do far more damage than if a player is bowling from a wheelchair. However, a wet wicket can cause tyre marks, which are difficult to remove. However, would you be playing cricket anyway on a wicket if it was that soft? The answer is no. In very hot weather, tyres can leave a scorch mark on the wicket, which is unsightly rather than damaging.

Players who use crutches or walking aids should ensure the rubber stop at the base of the crutch is present before using them on the wicket or indeed on an artificial pitch, where they might perforate the turf in the rubber was missing or faulty.

8. Isn't it dangerous for people with disabilities to play cricket?

Our safety record, to date, is excellent for several reasons:

- We always recommend that Qualified ECB coaches run training sessions wherever possible.
- We use incrediballs, tennis balls or windballs for training sessions rather than the standard cricket ball. Hard cricket balls are not used in the CFPD for Zodiac (CC1) or Zenith (CC2) matches.
- The ECB inform coaches that tennis balls can cause eye damage when struck very hard, **so use for catching and fielding purposes only.**
- In matches, we have categories to prevent players with low levels of disability playing against those with high levels of disability.

Safety is paramount in all aspects of the sport.

Note: Some competitions (not CFPD ones) permit players of mixed levels of disability in teams *and* the use of a hard ball. The CFPD advocates using safety equipment and an incrediball in these matches.

9. What are the categories?

There are three categories: Zodiac (CC1), Zenith (CC2), and Zephyr (CC3). Each player in a match has a profile which is a number between 1 and 40. Certain profile numbers qualify a player to play in a particular category. High levels of disability are catered for in Zodiac matches, Zenith are moderate levels of disability and Zephyr are low levels of disability. More information on profiles can be obtained from the CFPD.

10. Can players run between wickets?

Some players are able to run normally. People with high levels of disability run shorter distances.

People who are at a definite disadvantage and isolated in their team due to their disability, would be awarded a runner as long as the umpires agree that the disability severely restricts the player when running, compared to the other players in the match.

11. We are not really interested in disability cricket, what benefit will it have for us?

A simple response is that funding for your club is much easier if you have a disabled group using the facilities. All new clubs must be disabled friendly and if you are investing in money to comply with the law, then it seems sensible to ensure that you have people who use the facilities. New players, including those with a disability, will swell your membership, support club functions, sell raffle tickets and bring friends along – just like other members. Additionally, they will raise your club's profile and standing in the community.

12. How can we manage, we do not have disabled access to our club?

For wheelchair access to external doors, a simple wooden ramp will often solve the problem provided that there are no more than three steps up to the door. Make sure the ramp is sturdy and wide enough as well as safe to use. Toilets are usually the main problem often being situated down a narrow corridor with little if any room to manoeuvre in to. For a special event, mobile toilets are available at reasonable cost.

13. How do I find potential cricketers with disabilities in my area?

Speak to the Librarian in your local Library, they are often very helpful. Groups to look for, MENCAP, PHAB, Special Olympics etc. Your local Youth Officer and Social Services are often good contacts. Most Borough Councils now have staff working within leisure services who coordinate activities between different sports clubs and disabled groups. Finally, produce press releases in local papers and radio to advertise for new players.

14. How do we raise funds?

This applies to any club but here are a few suggestions that have worked for us:

- Sports Councils, Rotary Clubs, Lions, Round Table, Business, Companies, Charitable Trusts (details from local libraries) can all be approached for funding;
- Coffee mornings, entertainment evenings, raffles, packing bags in the local supermarket ongoing ways of encouraging different people who use the club to take part in an activity that suits them

The Wildgoose Way

Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities

www.cfpd.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 1046858

There is a categories leaflet available on request.

If you have any queries, or require other leaflets, books or advice contact:

Stephen Farmer 07957 614 890 email cfpdchairman@outlook.com

Geoff Phillips 07855 395 293 email geoff.phillips@blueyonder.co.uk

**“Never put off until tomorrow
what you can do today”**

