Policy for Use of the Cricket Nets at Hartlepool Cricket Club



This Policy for Use of the Cricket Nets at Hartlepool Cricket Club, ("the Policy"), was agreed by the General Committee of Hartlepool Cricket Club at its Meeting held on the 28th March, 2022.

The Policy primarily has application to the nets located at Park Drive, but the principles of "safe usage" should be applied to any net sessions, irrespective of venue, that are held involving players from Hartlepool Cricket Club, ("the Cricket Club").

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General Considerations :

1. The nets are available for use by Senior Playing Members; the Cricket Club's ECB qualified Coaches; Junior Members, plus parents and carers of Junior Members; Private Coaches – if permission is granted to use the nets by the General Committee; a Team Manager, or Coach of a Representative Team – if permission is granted to use the nets by the General Committee; and Ben Holden, (or his nominated representative), of High Tunstall College of Science;
2. Out of respect to the Cricket Club's neighbours, the nets should not be used before 8.30am in the morning, or after 9pm during the evening;
3. The surface of the nets must not be marked with chalk, or any other material. Cones, discs, or similar non-marking items should be used instead;
4. No climbing, leaning, or bouncing off the nets is permitted;
5. Before the start of a net session the lanes that are being used must be checked to make sure they are safe for use. This will include a check of the netting, plus ensuring there is no debris on the batting strip, or any items of rubbish;
6. Before a net session commences an individual must be nominated to check the netting before the commencement of the session to ensure a safe environment. Any debris, or rubbish must be removed and placed in the bin adjacent to the nets before a session starts;
7. At the end of a net session an individual must be nominated to ensure that any debris, or items of rubbish must be removed and placed in the bin adjacent to the nets;
8. The cricket stumps located in each of the three lanes are to remain in their respective lane and are to be positioned at the batting end and the bowling end;
9. No foul, (ie. swearing), or abusive language is to be used in, or around the nets. This is to respect members of the Cricket Club, (especially female and Junior members), and the Cricket Club's neighbours;
10. The General Committee reserves the right to withdraw the privilege of using the nets if the rules as set out in this Policy are not followed;
11. Any person in breach of any part of this Policy risks suspension from further use and possible disciplinary action;
12. Should the nets, or the artificial playing surface be found to be damaged, then any such damage should be reported to Dave Measor, (Head Groundsman : 07719567823), or Phil Mole, (Chair of Selection Committee : 07939836154);
13. The last person to leave the nets must ensure that the entrance gate to the nets is securely locked to prevent unauthorised access to the nets; and
14. It is imperative that the nets are treated with respect, so as to minimise the chances of the nets being subject to damage.

Bags and Equipment :

1. No cricket bags, or kit bags are to be left on the artificial playing surface, or within the hitting direction of practice. Bags must be left outside of the cricket net structure, ie. outside of the perimeter fence which surrounds the net structure;
2. Those using the cricket nets must wear suitable footwear, ie. rubber-soled, non-marking cricket shoes, or trainers;
3. Those using the cricket nets must not wear : spikes; smooth soles; or street shoes;

4. Those batting in the nets against a hard ball must wear appropriate protection, which includes the following, as appropriate : helmet; abdominal guard; gloves; pads; and thigh guard;
5. All those batting, or keeping wicket in the nets who are aged under 18 years old must wear a helmet;
6. Only the following types of balls are allowed to be used in the nets : proper leather cricket balls; bowling machine balls; tennis balls; wind balls; “incrediballs”; or indoor cricket balls; and
7. Footballs, or rugby balls may only be used in the cricket nets as part of a cricket based coaching exercise.

Cricket Net Safety Rules :

1. With the exception of Coaches, or a parent / carer who is invited into the nets when their child is being coached by one of the Cricket Club’s ECB qualified Coaches, or a Private Coach, no spectators are permitted to be within the internal area of the nets;
2. Batters must pad-up outside of the net area, ie. outside of the perimeter fence which surrounds the net structure;
3. Bowlers should only bowl when the batter is ready to receive the ball;
4. Bowlers are required to face the batter at all times, save when returning to their bowling mark when they should ensure they are aware of the position of the ball;
5. Bowlers must not bowl in their lane if a loose ball is located on the batting strip – the ball must be removed before they bowl;
6. A loud shout of *“***STOP***”* means that all activity in all nets must stop immediately, so that the safety issue can be addressed;
7. The batter is required to immediately return balls to the bowler, ie. there must not be any loose balls on the batting strip;
8. Balls must be retrieved from the side netting by the “Safe Method”. The Safe Method is, :-

    a) Check no one is bowling in the net next to you;
    b) Once safe to do so, remove the ball from the net with your foot, or bat;
    c) When the ball is away from the net pick the ball up; and
    d) If bowling, walk back to the back of the net keeping your eyes on the batter. If batting, walk back to the stumps to continue your batting;

9. Bowling in the nets bowling must be in accordance with the laws of cricket, ie. from the legal distance that applies; a legal action must be used; and there must not be excessive short bowling;
10. Training against short bowling must be supervised by an ECB qualified Coach;
11. In order to promote the safety and welfare of our Junior members, (ie. those aged under 18 years of age), when Junior training sessions take place in the cricket nets which are delivered by the Junior Section these sessions must be conducted under the supervision of its ECB qualified Coaches, who must check the netting before the commencement of he session to ensure a safe environment. There must be one ECB qualified Coach per net lane and at least one of the Coaches must have a first aid kit with them;

12. Additional first aid kits are located in : the Clubhouse; in the Pavilion; and in the "entry gate hut"; and
13. If any accidents occur in the nets, then these must be reported and entered in the Accident Book which is kept behind the bar.

Pre-Arranged Training Sessions :

1. The following days and times during the cricket season are set aside for pre-arranged training sessions by the stated groups, (although additional sessions may be arranged), with members of the groups being required to be a member of the Junior Section, or Senior Section, as appropriate, unless permission to use the nets has been granted by the General Committee for the nets to be used by a third party, such as a Representative Team, :-

a) **Mondays :**

- 3pm to 4.15pm during term time from April to July : High Tunstall College of Science : the nets must be used under the supervision of a School Teacher from "High Tunstall"; and
- 6pm to 7.30pm : Under 17s.

b) **Tuesdays :**

- 6pm to 8pm : Senior Training.

c) **Wednesdays :**

- 6pm to 7.00pm : Under 14s and Under 15s.

d) **Thursdays :**

- 5.30pm to 6.30pm : Girls Under 11s;
- 6pm to 8pm : Senior Training and 6pm to 7.30pm Under 17s Training; and
- 6.45pm to 8pm : Under 12s.

e) **Fridays :**

- 5pm to 6.30pm : Under 13s;
- 5.15pm to 6.15pm : Monkeys;
- 6.15pm to 7.30pm : Under 9s; and
- 6.30pm to 8.00pm : Under 11s.

f) **Saturdays :**

- One lane is reserved for use by those players between 10am to 12noon who are playing in Senior fixtures on a Saturday; and
- 3pm to 4.30pm : Girls Under 13s,15s and 17s.

g) Sundays :

Use of the Nets in the Course of a Business :

1. Should any individual want to use one of the lanes to deliver private cricket coaching in the course of their own business, ("the Private Coach"), then the permission of the General Committee must be firstly obtained in writing before the nets can be so used;
2. A lane can only be used by the Private Coach if it is : not required for use by players from the Senior Section to have a net session; it is not required by one of the Junior Section's ECB qualified Coaches to deliver a training session of any description; or the General Committee has not granted permission to a third party to use the nets, such as a Representative Team;
3. Where a Private Coach uses one of the lanes in the course of delivering private cricket coaching in the course of their own business a fee will be payable by the Private Coach, which will need to be agreed between the General Committee and the Private Coach; and
4. Where a Private Coach does use one of the lanes in the course of delivering private cricket coaching in the course of their own business then they are responsible for ensuring that they have the necessary insurance provisions and other requirements in place to enable them to deliver the session. For the avoidance of any doubt, the other obligations which apply to other users of the nets, as set out in this Policy, equally apply to the Private Coach too.

Use of the Nets By Representative Teams :

1. Should a Team Manager, or Coach of a Representative Team want to use the nets to deliver cricket coaching, or a training session, then the permission of the General Committee must be firstly obtained in writing before the nets can be so used;
2. The General Committee may charge a nominal fee of £20.00 per hour for the Representative Team to use the nets, which is required to be paid into the Club at the end of the session. For the avoidance of any doubt, this fee is chargeable for each session that is held; and
3. Where a Representative Team does use the nets its representative organisation is responsible for ensuring that it has the necessary insurance provisions and other requirements in place to enable the session to be delivered. For the avoidance of any doubt, the other obligations which apply to other users of the nets equally apply to the representative organisation.

Use of the Nets By High Tunstall College of Science :

Use of the nets by High Tunstall College of Science is in accordance with the partnership working that exists between the Cricket Club and "High Tunstall".

Use of the Nets By Hartlepool Power Station Cricket Club :

Use of the nets by Hartlepool Power Station Cricket Club is subject to agreement being reached with the General Committee, having regard to the availability of the nets.

Bowling Machine Policy :

The bowling machine is available for use by Junior Members and Senior Playing Members. However, it must be used in accordance with the following guidelines, having due regard to the importance of health and safety issues, :-

1. The bowling machine must only be used by those qualified to do so during arranged practice sessions, ie. those persons who have previously been shown how to use the bowling machine safely and correctly;
2. For the avoidance of any doubt, Junior members are not allowed to use the bowling machine if not supervised by an ECB qualified Coach;
3. Nobody under the age of 18 years of age may operate the bowling machine;
4. Any member using the bowling machine does so at their own risk;
5. The qualified user must ensure the safety of all people using the machine whilst in their care;
6. Any qualified user that breaches the manufacturers recommended operating procedures does so completely at their own risk and the Cricket Club will not accept any liability for the qualified user failing to do so;
7. Any qualified user found to be using the bowling machine improperly will be suspended from further use and may lead to disciplinary action;
8. Any qualified user causing damage to be bowling machine may be liable for repair charges;
9. Any person using the bowling machine accepts full responsibility for the machine and sundries, including balls. Any loss will result in the user being liable for replacement charges.

Additional Provisions :

1. The Cricket Club will not accept any responsibility for unaccompanied children using the nets facility;
2. Those using the nets without the supervision of one of the Cricket Club's ECB qualified Coaches do so AT THEIR OWN RISK;
3. Persons may use the nets if they are a Junior Member, a Senior Playing Member, or if permission has been granted by the General Committee;
4. Parents, or carers of Junior members may also use the net when supervising their children;
5. For the avoidance of any doubt, the General Committee will determine who is told the combination code to open the door to the nets. This will include : Senior Playing Members; the Cricket Club's ECB qualified Coaches; parents and carers of Junior Members; Private Coaches, as appropriate; a Team Manager, or Coach of a Representative Team, as appropriate; and Ben Holden of High Tunstall College of Science;
6. The combination code, which is required to open the door to the nets, must not be disclosed to any person who is not a member of the Cricket Club;
7. The combination code may be changed from time to time, as determined by the General Committee;
8. The General Committee reserves the right to withdraw the privilege of using the nets if a person does not follow the rules as set out in this Policy; and

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9. Any issues of concern regarding the nets must be immediately brought to the attention of the Cricket Club's Chair, (Alan Jackson – 07930645647), or the Club's Safeguarding Officer, (Claire Blakey – 07861613122).