

# POULTON CRICKET CLUB NETS

## Kit & Equipment Rules

- Please leave all kit bags outside the enclosed net facility, this is both for safety when padding up as well as minimising deflection risk.
- Please wear suitable footwear at all times i.e. rubber-soled (non-marking) cricket shoes or trainers. **No spikes or may be worn inside the nets.**
- Batters working with a hard ball must wear adequate protection, helmet, box, pads etc and without exception, **all Under 18's must bat in a helmet.**
- Only proper leather cricket balls or bowling machine balls to be used in nets. Tennis balls or purpose made "incrediballs" may be used in appropriate circumstances.
- No other balls such as footballs or rugby balls to be used in the nets and the side of the nets may not be used for kicking balls against.
- Please keep entrance gate closed when nets are in use.

## Net Safety Rules

- No spectators are allowed in the nets
- No Food, Alcohol or Smoking is allowed inside the nets.
- Batters must always pad up outside the enclosed net area.
- Bowlers should only bowl when the batter is ready and should face the batter at all times. They should not bowl if a loose ball is in the net near their run up or anywhere where the ball might pitch.
- A loud cry of "**STOP**" should stop activity in all nets immediately to address any safety problem.
- Balls should be returned immediately by the batsman and not left to lie loose in the net.
- 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, remove the ball from the net with your foot/bat
  - c. When the ball is away from the net pick the ball up.
  - d. Walk back to the back of the net keeping your eyes on both nets at all times.
- Bowling must be in accordance with the laws of cricket — from legal distance, legal action with no deliberate excess of short bowling.
- Training in the play of short bowling must be coach supervised.
- Bowling machines: These should only be used by those qualified and/or authorised to do so during arranged practice session.

## Nets used for ARRANGED practice sessions

- For the safety of our youth members (those under the age of 18) the following procedures are in place.
- The sessions **MUST** be conducted under the supervision of an ECB qualified coach.
- When batting facing a hard ball the proper protective items, including helmet **MUST** be worn.
- Before practice commences coaches **MUST** check the cage and netting to ensure a safe environment.
- Any equipment including kit bags is to be stored away from the nets.
- All players using the net practice must behave in a proper and correct manner and if not be removed from the net by the coach or practice stopped.
- After each practice session the equipment **MUST** be stored away properly.

## Nets used by members outside normal practice sessions

- Anyone wishing to use the nets **MUST** have booked through the online Skedda tool available on the club website in order to avoid double bookings. Any arranged practice sessions will have been blocked out the booking app. Non-members will be required to purchase a reduced club membership in order to be covered by the club's insurance policy. The nets are free to use when this is paid.
- The club will not accept responsibility for unaccompanied children using the nets facility.
- Members under the age of 18 using the net facility are the responsibility of their parents/guardians/carers.
- People using the nets without the supervision of a qualified coach do so **AT THEIR OWN RISK.**
- The use of helmets and other protective wear is essential when using a hard ball.
- The nets must be left in the condition they were found with stumps left in appropriate position and any rubbish removed.

## Bowling Machine Policy

- The bowling machine is for the use of **ALL** members of the Club. It may be used with prior agreement from the Committee. The Committee has agreed that any user wishing to make use of the bowling machine **MUST** follow the guidelines set out below:
- You may only use the bowling machine if accompanied by a qualified user (qualified user being someone who has been shown how to use a bowling machine correctly).
- You may only use the bowling machine if you have booked it on the website. This will also enable you to see the last time the battery was used.
- Any member using the machine does so at his/her own risk.
- The qualified user must ensure the safety of all people using the machine whilst in their care. All users must inform people of the importance of health and safety and gain their acceptance of this policy as well.
- Any user that breaches the manufacturers recommended operating procedures does so completely at their own risk and the Club will accept no liability for the users failure to comply.
- Any user found to be using the machine improperly will be suspended from further use and this may lead to disciplinary action.
- The Club reserves the right to introduce hiring charges should the Committee feel the need to.
- Any user causing damage may be liable for repair charges.
- Any user accepts **FULL** responsibility for the machine and sundries including balls. Any loss will result in the user being liable for replacement charges.
- Any user must place the battery they have used back on charge or ***Any user in breach of any of this policy risks suspension from further use and possible disciplinary action.***

## General

- The nets are situated in an area open to the general public. Please be aware of other people outside and importantly in the vicinity of the nets.

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**Anyone found damaging this facility will be prosecuted**