



## Bitteswell Cricket Club Missing Child Policy

A child going missing can be extremely traumatic – for adults and children. However, if everyone is aware of some simple pre-defined guidelines, panic levels can be minimised, and more critically, the missing child can, hopefully, be found in an organised and efficient way. Hopefully no child will ever go missing from one of our teams/events. If they do, please remember most children are found within a few minutes of their disappearance.

If a child, for whom Bitteswell Cricket Club has responsibility, goes missing, the coaches/adults in charge of the event will:

- Ensure other children in our care are looked after appropriately while we organise a search for the child concerned
- Inform the child's parents, if they are present at the event, or nominate an appropriate person to telephone them and advise of the concern. We will reassure them we are doing all we can to locate their child.
- Organise all available responsible adults by areas to be searched. We will take a short time to organise the search properly so that all places are searched fully
- Search the area in which the child has gone missing including changing rooms, toilets, public and private areas and the club's grounds
- Request all those searching to report back to a nominated adult at a specific point
- This nominated person will remain at this reference point and make a note of events, including a detailed physical description of the child. This will include approximate height, build, hair and eye colour as well as the clothing the child was wearing and where and when they were last seen. If the search is unsuccessful we will then contact the police.

**N.B. A report will go to the police no later than 20 minutes after the child's disappearance is noted, even if the search is not complete.**

- If the police recommend further action before they get involved, we will follow their guidance.
- If the police act upon the concern, we will be guided by them in any further actions to take.
- At any stage when the child is located, we will inform all adults involved including the parents, searchers and the police if, by then, they are involved.

All missing child incidents will be notified at the very earliest opportunity to the Club Welfare Officer, who will immediately notify the County Welfare Officer, and they will then notify the ECB Child Protection Team.