

## Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

**Question.** I have read the new recommendations for cricket helmets to conform to new BS7928:2013 and am unsure what this is telling me. Does it mean I have to throw away my existing helmets and buy all new helmets to conform, or does it mean that WHEN I buy new helmets to replace old/worn ones that they should then be only of this standard?

**Question.** As a secondary school we currently stock a variety of cricket helmets. Every year we check and discard any we feel are not fit for purpose. With the new guidelines being put in place do we legally need to replace all our helmets for ones that meet the new BS7928:2013 standard or can we do this as and when ours need naturally replacing? Much as I am fully supportive of safety being paramount and cost not being as important as a child's safety, I am however nervous at the prospect of investing £500 on new helmets.

**Answer.** The ECB strongly recommends that wherever possible, junior players use head protectors which meet the new updated standard BS7928:2013 and have been tested against junior sized balls. That is not however to say that helmets which meet the older BS7928:1998 cannot be used and whether it is possible for helmets meeting the new standard to be made available needs to be put in the context of the circumstances of individual clubs/schools.

If you have helmets that meet the BS7928:1998 standard, whether or not these helmets need replacing depends on a number of factors including the age of the helmets (most manufacturers advise between 3-5 years for the materials used in production); how well they have been looked after and the state of the various components on the helmet – the ECB cannot comment on any individual helmets and it is for the club/school that has looked after them to decide. However, it is strongly recommended that you ensure any existing helmets have secure fastenings and the grille is set at a point where the smallest ball being used in a match or practice cannot pass through the grille.

If a club chooses to replace any helmets, then the guidance recommends replacing them with ones that meet the new standard.

For the avoidance of doubt, the ECB's guidance does not have force of law.

**Question.** I am looking to purchase new cricket helmets for my school and have found some online. However, I do not want to spend money on the wrong equipment. Some of the new helmets that meet the new safety requirements are far too expensive (minimum £85). Please can you offer guidance about where I can access affordable helmets that meet the new safety requirements?

**Question.** Last weekend I bought my 14-year-old son a new helmet. This week I received a note from our cricket club saying ECB guidance now says that the design and manufacture of helmets is governed by BS7928:13. The new helmet purchased doesn't appear on the list of head protectors that meet this standard. Can you please confirm whether or not the helmet has been tested and, if not, whether he should be wearing it? It appears to be certified to BS7928:1998 which, I presume, is the old standard.

**Answer.** ECB are unable to offer recommendations on price or design but we are able to provide a list to allow purchasers to know which helmets have been tested and certificated. The list will be updated on [www.ecb.co.uk/helmets](http://www.ecb.co.uk/helmets) as soon as we receive an authorised Testing Certificate. ECB are aware of helmets costing £35 which meet the new standard.

**Question.** If you can let me know if there is any new guidance about helmets and neck protection for schools cricket I would be grateful.

**Answer.** All helmet guidance is listed on [www.ecb.co.uk/helmets](http://www.ecb.co.uk/helmets). There is no British or International standard for neck protection at this time.

**Question.** I am an umpire and want to know if I have to inspect the head protection on junior players when they come out to bat or keep-wicket?

**Answer.** There is no need for umpires to inspect the head protection of junior players when they come out to bat or keep-wicket. In the event of an incident, the umpire should make a record of it in the usual way, including any relevant observations in relation to the helmet.

In the (probably rare) event that an umpire has any concerns in relation to a player's head protection (e.g. it is visibly damaged or appears to be obviously inadequate), it may be prudent to raise this with the team's manager.

**Question.** How long should it be before I make a request to my club for a change of helmets?

**Answer.** Whether any given helmet (or set of helmets) needs replacing depends on a number of factors including the age of the helmet (most manufacturers advise between 3-5 years for the materials used in production); how well it has been looked after and the state of the various components on the helmet – the ECB cannot comment on any individual helmets and it is for the club/school that has looked after it to decide. However, it is strongly recommended that you ensure any existing helmets have secure fastenings and the grille is set at a point where the smallest ball being used in a match or practice cannot pass through the grille. If a club chooses to replace any helmets, then ECB recommends replacing old helmets with ones that meet the new standard.

**Question.** Do you have any communication or leaflet that I can publish on our website drawing attention to the new British Standard when considering buying a new head protector?

**Answer.** Helmet Guidance and a downloadable poster for use by Leagues and Clubs can be found on the ECB website at [www.ecb.co.uk/helmets](http://www.ecb.co.uk/helmets) or send an email to [helmets@ecb.co.uk](mailto:helmets@ecb.co.uk)

**Question.** Following the recent issue of guidance, what does this mean in terms of use of helmets for cricket when an Incrediball or windball. i.e. not a normal leather cricket ball.

**Answer.** The ECB's Helmet Guidance is produced with normal leather cricket balls in mind and it does not therefore strictly apply to other kinds of ball, such as Incrediballs or windballs, which are typically softer.

That said, organisers of cricketing activities involving other kinds of balls should still assess the risk attached to their activity based upon a number of factors, including (but not necessarily limited to) the age and ability of players, the venue and any other protection provided to players. In the case of children, it is often fun for children to wear protective equipment and it makes the transition from softball to hardball easier for some children.

**Question.** One of our age group players (a girls U15 wicket-keeper) asked about new standards for wicket-keeper facemasks.

**Answer.** At present the facemask cannot meet the British Standard for helmets as it is not designed to protect the head. It is essential that the grille of the facemask is robust and will not allow a ball to pass through. If you are uncomfortable with wearing a facemask without a British Standard then use a BS7928:2013 helmet.