**Dear Parents / Carers,**

The new cricket season is nearly upon and as a group of team managers and coaches we are really looking forward to getting to know the junior cricketers, working on skills, playing some competitive matches and generally building a love for the game of cricket.

Cricket is a great sport for fitness, co-ordination and building confidence and we really do want to ensure that the players enjoy their season with us. Cricket does however come with some risks as there are hard bats and balls involved so here are some very simple guidelines that we would like to state right at the start of the season so that there is no confusion.

**Safety and Behaviour** Keeping every player safe is the number one priority. At training there can be multiple activities going on at any one time and so whilst we want the players to enjoy themselves there is a level of respect to others and behaviour that is expected. Unfortunately a cricket bat can do quite a lot of damage if it is used as a light sabre and cricket balls hurt if they hit you when you are not expecting it. So we simply ask that your child shows due respect to other players and their coaches.

**Parental Supervision** On normal training nights you will be very welcome to come and watch from the pavilion but do not feel that you have to. On Fridays it is the intention that the bar will be open from 6.00 pm and can be open on other nights for matches with volunteers that are approved by the Bar Manager. Please let us know if you are happy to help.

When we are training then as managers and coaches we are able to have our full attention on the players and have sufficient cover should there be a need to deal with any unforeseen incidents.

Matches are different as often the manager and coach are scoring and umpiring meaning that there is limited supervision of what is happening on the boundary. Therefore, for matches (both home and away) please ensure that there is an adult who is there to supervise your child. There is no issue if adults are nominated to look out for other people’s children, please just let the coach or manager know who will be supervising your child if you are not staying.

**Equipment** The good news is that Hadleigh Cricket Club is able to lend equipment so please do not feel compelled to rush out and buy everything. There is one exception for boys, which relates to wearing the right underwear as all players must wear a cricket box when batting against a hard ball. Please ensure that for all training and matches your child wears underwear into which a box can be inserted. You can buy shorts that are purpose made or a simple pair of briefs will suffice. Boxer shorts/loose fitting underwear typically results in the box falling out down the trouser leg. If playing hard ball and a player comes to training or a match without suitable underwear then they will be unable to bat.

**Volunteering** There are always roles for willing volunteers! Most notable would be to assist with scoring, it really isn’t that difficult and it instantly frees up one of the HCC team to be more involved with what’s happening on the field or behind the scenes organising. So please cast off those concerns about not knowing how to do it and sit alongside someone and learn. It really would be a great help. There are other roles too including fundraising. For home matches HCC like to offer a cricket tea for all players. If your child is playing please make sure you bring along one item for the cricket tea and be prepared to help with making teas and coffees at least once through the season.

So there’s nothing too difficult. We want the season to be one that keeps our players safe, one of player’s progression and most of all one of fun for all involved. Your help with all of the above is greatly appreciated. Please do get in touch if you can volunteer to help.

**Coaches and Managers**

**Hadleigh Cricket Club – Junior Section**