

ECB and PCA Guidance on Head Protectors/Helmets

The ECB and PCA strongly encourage all cricket clubs and cricketers to review their existing head protector equipment. In this Guidance Note, references to “head protectors” means helmets with a faceguard or grille.

The design and manufacture of cricket head protectors is now governed by British Standard **BS7928:2013**.

Note that **BS7928:2013** specifies different tests for helmets to be used in senior and junior cricket, reflecting the smaller ball size used in the latter.

The helmets listed below at Section 6 are those for which evidence has been provided to the ECB by the relevant manufacturer that the standard has been met and the appropriate authority to display a “CE quality mark” granted.

1. Key Features of the New Safety Specification

The key features of the new specification, **BS7928:2013**, are:

- it now includes a facial contact projectile test that assesses for penetration of the ball through the faceguard, and contact of the faceguard onto the face, using realistic ball impact speeds and conditions.
- head protectors have been tested separately against men’s and junior sized cricket balls

2. Women’s cricket

It is recommended that women use head protectors which have been tested against both the men’s and junior sized ball or at least against the junior size ball.

3. Junior cricket

Since 2000, the ECB has published safety guidance regarding the wearing of head protectors by all cricketers under the age of 18. The ECB’s current guidance is that all cricketers under the age of 18 must wear a head protector whilst batting in matches or practice sessions.

The ECB also now strongly recommends that junior players use head protectors which have been tested against the junior sized ball.

Wicketkeepers under the age of 18 should wear a head protector with a faceguard, or a wicketkeeper face protector, at all times when standing up to the stumps.

Captains, Coaches and Managers

Any individual taking responsibility for any player(s) under the age of 18 should take reasonable steps to ensure this guidance is followed at all times. No parental consent to the non-wearing of a head protector should be accepted.

5. Things to look out for in purchasing a new head protector

Head protectors that have been tested against and comply with the new specification will be clearly labelled “ **BS7928:2013**” and will contain clear labelling setting out whether the head protector has been tested against

- (i) a men’s standard ball size of 5 ½ ounces,
- (ii) a junior standard ball size of 4 ¾ ounces, or
- (iii) both men’s and junior size balls.

The list of known head protectors that have met BS7928:13 as of 20 May 2015

Tested against a men’s ball:

Gray Nicholls - Atomic Helmet

Gunn & Moore - Icon Geo Senior Large, Icon Geo Senior, Icon Geo Senior Small

Kookaburra - Pro 400 Senior, Viper Senior, Pro 800 Senior

Masuri - Vision Series Elite Titanium, Vision Series Elite Steel, Vision Series Test Titanium, Vision Series Test Steel, Vision Series Club Senior

Reader - Sovereign Senior

Shrey - Master Class Air

Slazenger - International

Tested against both men’s and junior balls:

Gray Nicholls - Atomic Helmet

Gunn & Moore - Icon Geo Senior

Tested against junior balls:

Gray Nicholls - Atomic Helmet

Gunn & Moore - Icon Geo Senior, Icon Geo Junior

Kookaburra - Pro 400 Junior, Pro 400 Mini, Pro 800 Junior, Viper Junior

Masuri - Vision Series Club Junior

Readers - Sovereign Junior, Sovereign Mini

When a new helmet meets the BS7928:2013 standard, and are certified (CE) to be in conformity with Council Directive 89/686/EEC and associated amendments relating to personal protective equipment, manufacturers are asked to provide documentary evidence of this compliance to helmets@ecb.co.uk , so that the helmet can be added to the list