

Rayleigh Cricket Club

Cricket Nets Policy

Version	1.2
Author	RCC Management Committee
Issued	February 2024
Review by	February 2026
Audience	All members and parents

1. Introduction and Scope

This policy aims to establish a robust framework for the safe use of the nets facility at Rayleigh Cricket Club. All members, including parents of colt and young adult members, are encouraged to acquaint themselves with this policy. Utilising the nets constitutes acceptance of these guidelines.

2. Use of Nets

Usage of the nets is contingent upon availability. The committee retains the right to revoke cricket net privileges from members who fail to adhere to the enclosed regulations.

Members are prohibited from disclosing the combination code for the nets to any other individual. The club actively changes the combination to ensure the facility is not used inappropriately.

Young players (under the age of 18) are not to use the nets without supervision and consequently the club will not accept responsibility for unaccompanied children using the nets facility. Additionally, members using the nets without the supervision of a qualified coach do so at their own risk.

Access to the outdoor nets is permissible under the following conditions:

- You are a fully paid-up and registered playing member of Rayleigh Cricket Club. Parents of members aged 18 or under may also use the net while supervising their children.
- Adherence to safety regulations for the nets, including the wearing of appropriate protective equipment (sections four and five).
- Individuals under the age of 18 are supervised by a responsible adult.

3. Conditions for Use

To maintain the quality of our cricket nets and ensure safety for all members, the following conditions must be adhered to:

- The nets are not to be utilised during the off-season unless prior agreement has been obtained from a member of the management

committee. This measure is essential to safeguard the surface of the nets and prevent any damage that may occur following maintenance work.

- Under inclement weather conditions or when the nets' surface is wet, usage is prohibited. This precautionary measure is aimed at preserving the longevity of the nets, shielding them from potential damage, and ensuring the safety of individuals using them.

It is imperative that members adhere to these conditions for use. The club cannot accept responsibility for any damages resulting from non-compliance.

4. Equipment Rules

The below rules should be followed when using the nets:

- No kit bags should be inside the enclosed artificial playing surface.
- Suitable footwear must be worn i.e., rubber-soled (non-marking) shoes or trainers. Cricket spikes and non-sport shoes are not permitted.
- Batters working with a hard ball must wear adequate protection.
- All under 18s must bat in a helmet and full protective equipment.
- Please refrain from tapping bats excessively at the crease.
- The surface of the nets must not be marked with chalk or any other material. Cones, discs or similar non marking items should be used instead.
- Only proper leather cricket balls, bowling machine balls, tennis balls or purpose made cricket training balls may be used in nets.
- Loose balls should be collected to minimise accidents or damage.
- No climbing, leaning, or bouncing off the nets.
- All rubbish/litter is to be placed in the bin.
- There is to be no foul language in or around the nets. This is to respect other club members and uphold the image of the club.

5. Safety Rules

The below rules should be followed when using the nets:

- The net is only to be used with the gate closed but not locked.
- No spectators are to be in the net.
- Batters must pad up outside the net area.
- Bowlers must only bowl when the batter is ready.
- Loose balls should be removed before bowling in the net.
- A loud cry of "STOP" should result in all activity stopping immediately to address any potential safety problem. The nearest first aid point can be found in the clubhouse.
- Balls should be returned immediately by the batsman and not left to lie loose.
- Bowlers should take care not to cross into another lane to retrieve a ball.
- Bowling must be in accordance with the laws of cricket.
- The bowling machine should only be used by those qualified and/or authorised to do so by the management committee.
- Under 18s must always be supervised by a responsible adult.
- The nets must be locked after use.

6. Use Outside of Schedule Training Sessions

Use of the nets is permitted outside of scheduled training sessions; however, priority will be given to pre-arranged training sessions (e.g., colts training). Details of pre-arranged sessions can be found on the club's website, play cricket site and social media pages.

As per section three of this policy, the nets should not be used during, or shortly after, poor weather conditions or during the offseason (without permission).

7. Governance

Any issues or concerns should be brought to the attention of a committee member. This policy will be reviewed two years from the date of issue.

Appendix One:

Document History

Date	Description	Version	Initials
21/06/2022	Policy agreed by the management committee	1.0	TNP
02/01/2024	Formatted for website and section two (use of nets) amended	1.1	TNP
21/02/2024	Section three (conditions for use) added.	1.2	TNP