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NZC HELMET POLICY

2026-27

Introduction

NZC, as the national governing body of cricket in New Zealand, is responsible for the guardianship, promotion, and administration of cricket in New Zealand.

The NZC Helmet Policy outlines regulations for the use of head protection for players and support staff participating in national representative teams and teams participating in NZC administered national competitions and tournaments.

NZC will make protective helmets available to NZC-appointed umpires officiating in domestic white-ball matches.

Head Protection Regulations

National representative players participating in international cricket and Major Association (MA) representative players participating in NZC domestic competitions.

The following regulations apply to all BLACKCAPS, WHITE FERNS, NZ A, NZXI, NZ Emerging, NZ Development, NZ under-19, North v South, and MA representative players participating in international or NZC domestic and provincial A competitions. This also includes anyone invited to train with the above teams or squads.

The wearing of a BS 7928: 2013 compliant helmet is mandatory when batting against fast or medium paced bowling, wicket-keeping (up to the stumps) or fielding in close (within 7 metres of the stumps, excluding behind the wicket on the off-side).

It is also strongly recommended that a compliant helmet is worn when batting against spin bowling.

When batting against fast or medium paced bowling, helmets are required to have a neck protector. A neck protector is an attachment to the helmet that covers the part of the head and neck, typically below a helmet, behind the ears.

A helmet or face mask shall not be deemed to be compliant if it is altered in any way which is inconsistent with any guidance or instructions provided by the relevant manufacturer or in a way which otherwise reduces the safety protection provided by the relevant helmet or face mask (for example, the removal of the chin cup or, in cases of a separate neck protector, alteration of the neck protector and/or its attachment).

Any individual with responsibility for players (such as a coach or manager), together with Match Officials, should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the above guidelines are followed.

British Standard helmets (BS 7928: 2013) are considered “best of breed” helmets and supersede the existing Australian/NZ Standard (AS/NZS 4499 series).

Women must use helmets which have been tested against both the men’s and junior sized ball or at least against the junior size ball.

District Association (DA) players participating in Hawke Cup Challenge matches.

The following regulations apply to players participating in Hawke Cup Challenge matches; and anyone invited to train with the above teams/squads.

The wearing of a BS 7928: 2013 compliant helmet is mandatory when batting against fast or medium paced bowling, wicket-keeping (up to the stumps) or fielding in close (within 7 metres of the stumps, excluding behind the wicket on the off-side).

It is also strongly recommended that a compliant helmet is worn when batting against spin bowling.

When batting against fast or medium paced bowling, the use of neck protectors is **mandatory**. A neck protector is an attachment to the helmet that covers the part of the head and neck, typically below a helmet, behind the ears.

Any individual with responsibility for players (such as a coach or manager), together with Match Officials, should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the above guidelines are followed.

Major Association (MA) representative players participating in NZC national tournaments.

The following regulations apply to players participating at national under 17 and under 19 men's and women's tournaments; and anyone invited to train with the above teams/squads.

The wearing of a BS 7928: 2013 compliant helmet is mandatory when batting against fast or medium paced bowling, wicket-keeping (up to the stumps) or fielding in close (within 7 metres of the stumps, excluding behind the wicket on the off-side).

It is also strongly recommended that a compliant helmet is worn when batting against spin bowling.

When batting against fast or medium-paced bowling, the use of neck protectors is **mandatory**. A neck protector is an attachment to the helmet that covers the part of the head and neck, typically below a helmet, behind the ears.

Any individual with responsibility for players (such as a coach or manager), together with Match Officials, should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the above guidelines are followed.

Women must use helmets which have been tested against both the men's and junior sized ball or at least against the junior size ball.

NZC Community Cricket Regulations

Junior / Youth Hardball (Under 19yrs) boys and girls

Helmets, with a face guard, are mandatory for junior cricketers (Under 19), including when they are playing senior cricket. They must be worn while playing and during practice sessions when batting, keeping (within 5 metres of the stumps) or fielding in close (within 7 metres of the stumps, excluding behind the wicket on the off-side).

British Standard helmets (BS7928:2013) are considered “best of breed” helmets and supersede the old Australian/NZ Standard (AS/NZS 4499 series). It is mandatory for all junior /youth cricketers to wear the British Standard helmet.

When batting against fast or medium paced bowling, the use of neck protectors is **recommended**. A neck protector is an attachment to the helmet that covers the part of the head and neck, typically below a helmet, behind the ears.

Any individual with responsibility for players (such as a coach or manager), together with match umpires, should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the above guidelines are followed.

Senior Cricket (19yrs and above) men and women

Helmets, with a face guard, are strongly recommended for senior cricketers (19yrs and above) while playing and during practice sessions when batting, keeping (within 5 metres of the stumps) or fielding in-close (within 7 metres of the stumps, excluding behind the wicket on the off-side).

British Standard helmets (BS7928:2013) are considered “best of breed” helmets and supersede the old Australian/NZ Standard (AS/NZS 4499 series). For the amateur cricketer (Senior 19yrs and above – Men and Women) who choose to wear a helmet, it is strongly recommended that the helmet meets the British Standard (BS7928:2013).

When batting against fast or medium-paced bowling, the use of neck protectors is **strongly recommended**. A neck protector is an attachment to the helmet that covers the part of the head and neck, typically below a helmet, behind the ears.

Any individual with responsibility for players (such as a coach or manager), together with match umpires, should take all reasonable steps to ensure that the above guidelines are followed.

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

Guidelines to Accompany NZC Helmet Policy

National representative players participating in international cricket and Major Association (MA) representative players participating in NZC domestic competitions.

Enforcement:

- Each MA must make the helmet policy available to all men's first class, men's and women's List A and T20 players, team managers and coaching staff.
- Each MA should verify it has received its allocation of Masuri BS 7928: 2013 compliant helmets and they have been made available to men's first class, men's and women's List A and T20 players for the duration of the season.
- Each MA must verify that the helmets to be used by men's first class, men's and women's List A and T20 players have the BS7928: 2013 sticker inside of the helmet and that helmets which are only compliant with previous safety standards (e.g. BS 7928: 1998 or AS/NZS 4499.1:1997) have been isolated and removed.
- Each MA should brief team managers around the expectation that the helmet policy is tightly and closely enforced.
- Each MA should ensure that the coaches, players and team managers have a copy of the most recent list of compliant helmets (available from NZC).
- Coaches and team managers should be briefed on the actions to be taken should a player choose to wear a non-compliant helmet when batting (which is that they can't take the field with a non-compliant helmet).
- The Match Referee/Umpires will endeavour to ensure that a helmet complies with BS 7928: 2013.
- If the Match Referees/Umpires become aware that a player is wearing a non-compliant helmet without the prior dispensation approval, the match can be suspended until the player complies with the helmet policy.
- A refreshed list of compliant helmets can be found at: www.ecb.co.uk/helmets

Safety in the Nets:

Practice nets are also a dangerous environment, and the following should be explained to men's first class, men's and women's List A and T20 cricketers:

- Helmets must be worn when batting in the nets.
- Only the immediate coaching staff, batters and bowlers should be in the nets during a practice session.

White ball matches

- It is mandatory for helmets to be worn in the nets by those people providing throw-downs.

Red ball matches

- NZC strongly recommend that helmets are also worn by those people providing throw-downs.

- Be alert! Bowlers also need to be aware of activity taking place in adjacent nets.

Major Association (MA) representative players participating in NZC national tournaments and Provincial A competitions.

Enforcement:

- Each MA must make the helmet policy available to all under 17, under 19 and provincial A players, team managers and coaching staff.
- Each MA should brief your team managers around the expectation that the helmet policy is tightly and closely enforced.
- Coaches and team managers should be aware that the match can be suspended until the player complies with the helmet policy.
- The helmets must be BS7928: 2013 compliant.

Safety in the Nets:

- Practice nets are also a dangerous environment, and the following should be explained to all under 17, under 19 and provincial A players, team managers and coaching staff.
- Helmets must be worn when batting in the nets.
- Only the immediate coaching staff, batters and bowlers should be in the nets during a practice session.

<u>White ball matches</u>

- It is mandatory for helmets to be worn in the nets by those people providing throw-downs.

<u>Red ball matches</u>

- NZC strongly recommend that helmets are also worn by those people providing throw-downs.

- Be alert! Bowlers also need to be aware of activity taking place in adjacent nets.

Helmet Replacement Policy:

A helmet must be replaced as follows:

- After a severe impact from a cricket ball.
- If you can see or feel any damage to any part of the head protector.
- After a hard knock or squashing it.

At the professional level each team should carry enough helmets to provide replacements.

There should not be any helmets made available to any player which are non-compliant.

All helmets must comply with BS 7928: 2013.