

Tarleton CC Bowling Machine

Bowling Machines:

Modern bowling machines can deliver balls at very high speeds with significant bounce, creating a serious risk of injury for both batters and operators. Even small changes in delivery speed can alter the length of the ball by up to two feet, as well as altering the height of the bounce, both of which increase the chance of being struck. To reduce these risks, all participants should consider taking the following measures:

Any person who chooses to bat against the bowling machine does so entirely at their own risk.

Any person who is operating a bowling machine should be suitably experienced, competent and familiar with their safe operation.

No person under the age of 18 should operate a bowling machine.

Adults should familiarise themselves with the ECB's icoachcricket resources on how to use a bowling machine prior to using a bowling machine in a session. These can be found here. <https://icoachcricket.ecb.co.uk/login>

A full risk assessment should be undertaken before using a bowling machine in practice.

Risk assessments should consider at a minimum the following factors:

- competency of the operator;
- competency of the batter;
- the use of PPE to mitigate risk of serious injury; and
- condition of the equipment used.

Players aged under 18 must always wear a helmet with a faceguard or grille when batting against a bowling machine. Any such player whose sex is male (regardless of gender) must also wear a groin protector. Players aged 18+ are recommended to wear a helmet (with faceguard or grille) when batting against a bowling machine, and any such player whose sex is male (regardless of gender) is also recommended to wear a groin protector.

It is strongly advised that all cricketers, regardless of age, wear neck protectors whenever they are wearing a helmet.

Bowling machines should be set up, operated and maintained in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Bowling machines should be fitted with Perspex screens and any other protection that is provided by the manufacturer. If this is not possible, those operating the machine should wear protective equipment including at least a helmet (with a faceguard or grille) and neck protector. Batters should take the opportunity of observing several deliveries (from the position of the bowling machine) before taking strike.

During practice, no adjustment to the machine should be made without the batter being informed before receiving another delivery.

Adjustments to the machine should be made only under the supervision of the coach.

The feeder should ensure the batter is ready before feeding the machine and should indicate to the batter that they are about to feed the machine before each delivery occurs.

Balls should be inspected prior to use and rejected if worn or damaged.

The speed at which the machine delivers balls should not be increased beyond the speed at which a batter can play with some degree of certainty.

Batters should be confident facing comparable deliveries with a soft ball before transitioning to facing a hard ball.

