Cricket Clothing: Sustainability, Circularity, and Regulation

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1. Introduction

This document presents the findings of the *Product Sustainability – Circularity Policy (PSCP) Tool for Cricket Project*, which investigated the supply chain, market and potential regulatory challenges faced by stakeholders engaged in the production, sale and use of cricket clothing in England and Wales (E&W).[1] The study aimed to: (1) map the environmental and market characteristics of cricket clothing and apparel, and (2) analyse the implications of existing and forthcoming policy and legislation for the cricket clothing sector. This report highlights some of the issues related to the complex supply chain for cricket clothing and draws on a European-level market study[2] to help estimate the market in E&W. The European-level market report was used to help develop assumptions related to the market in E&W due to the absence of publicly available market surveys and/or data in E&W. The research is guided by previous undertaken by The Centre for Sustainable Design® (CfSD) at University for the Creative Arts (UCA) - which can be found via the Platform for Accelerating Sustainability in Cricket (PASIC)[3]. In addition, to the report a practical circularity tool/checklist has been developed to support cricket clothing manufacturers to begin preparation for potential forthcoming clothing and textiles policy and legislation. Further to this, the PSCP project also aimed to investigate policy and legislation relevant to cricket clothing in E&W, as 90% of sales of cricket clothing within Europe takes place in E&W.[4] While the project draws on European Commission (EC) policy and legislation covering European Union (EU) member states, this serves as a backdrop to assess potential implications for any future policy developments in E&W. It is also worth noting, that at the time of writing, no publicly available, product-specific life cycle assessment (LCA) for cricket clothing and apparel exists. Nevertheless, recent studies have begun to draw attention to the previously underexamined contribution of sportswear to global textile waste, which is estimated to reach approximately 92 million tonnes annually,[5] thus positioning this research on cricket clothing as a first step towards understanding sustainability concerns for the sector.

The PSCP project was funded via the UCA UKRI Impact Accelerator Account (IAA).

2. Cricket Clothing Market Characteristics

Cricket clothing and apparel is used in the recreational and professional game and includes the following items: shirts, trousers, jumpers, socks, and caps. Most garments are primarily made from virgin polyester or polyester–elastane blends, due to performance, cost and sublimation printing requirements. This

[1] Cricket is also played in other European countries; however, E&W has a significantly larger participation. European countries that also play are the following: Ireland (c. 52,000 players), Netherlands (c. 6,000 players), Germany (between 7,000 - 10,000), France (growth reported but specific numbers have not been published) & Luxembourg (small community-numbers not confirmed). Sources include national cricket associations and related sources.

[2] See report: *Europe Cricket Apparel & Equipment Market Size & Outlook.* Available at: https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/cricket-apparel-equipment-market/europe

[3] For specific research related to cricket clothing and apparel, see Charter, M., & Czutkowna, J., (2022) "sustainability, Cricket Gear, Clothing and Apparel: Report on Cricket Clothing. Available at: https://cfsd.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Sustainability_Cricket-Clothing-Final-28-7-22.pdf

[4] Estimate is based on expert knowledge and direct communication with cricket clothing retailers.

[5] https://www.weforum.org/stories/2023/08/textile-recycling-create-jobs-reduce-pollution/

results in the main environmental impact for the sector being fossil-fuel based synthetic materials[6] produced in fast-paced season-based manufacturing cycles.[7] In addition to the reliance on synthetic materials, there has been a growing shift towards coloured and personalised clothing, moving away from traditional whites. While this reflects broader commercial and aesthetic trends within the sport, it also creates additional challenges for garment reuse and end-of-life material recycling.

As indicated above, publicly available data related to the market size and supply chains for cricket clothing and apparel is limited. This is partially due to commercial confidentiality, a culture of lack of information sharing and measurement, and cricket clothing industry's complex supply chain, with a tiered use of subcontractors resulting in challenges in identifying, for example, material origins. **Figure 1** maps the cricket clothing value chain across the full product lifecycle, from raw material extraction and garment design through to manufacture, retail, use, reuse, and end-of-life management. It identifies the key stakeholders involved at each stage, including raw material suppliers, designers, garment workers, retailers, cricket clubs, players, schools, charities, waste sorters, and recyclers, alongside the main processes undertaken throughout the lifecycle.

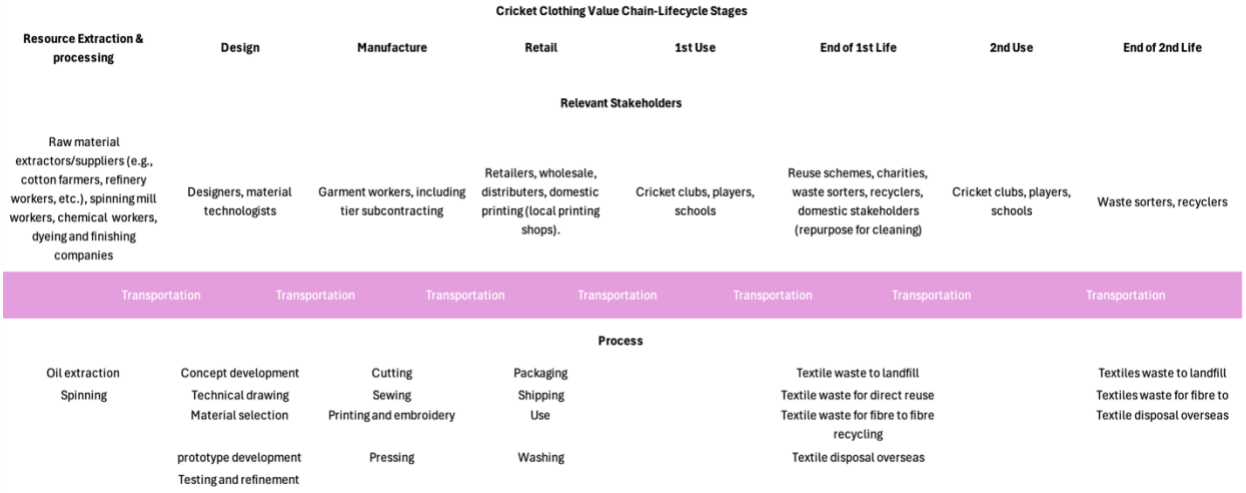

Figure 1: Mapping of the Cricket Clothing Value Chain

Figure 1 illustrates the complexity of the cricket clothing sector with the following key considerations for short-term implementation of product circularity strategies:

- Cricket clothing has limited potential second-life use phases, primarily due to its reliance on synthetic materials, making clothing a low-value material stock for secondary products.

[6] Within the environmental impacts related to the use of synthetic materials, the authors consider the extraction of fossil fuels required for production, energy related impacts and harm on human health related to chemicals used for processing synthetic materials and the release of micro plastics.

[7] https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/articles/running-rings-why-we-need-a-circular-economy-for-sports-kit#:~:text=The%20list%20goes%20on.,transfer%20fees%20of%20Jude%20Bellingham.

- Landfill disposal and exporting textile waste overseas at end-of-life stages remain the norm.
- Sublimated printing and other personalisation processes hinder direct reuse and material recycling. (e.g. coloured clothing, club and sponsors logos and individual team numbers printing and/embroidery)
- The use of mixed materials also hinders recycling e.g. polyester and elastane or sustainable material percentages (e.g., 50% bamboo fibres) mixed with 50% virgin polyester.

Initial research has indicated that India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, are key sourcing countries for cricket apparel manufacturing (although specific market data is not available). To explore current production and manufacturing practices in cricket clothing and apparel, and to identify challenges and opportunities for developing a circular cricket clothing system, a site visit was conducted to a cricket clothing factory in Northern India (Jalandhar) in March 2025. The site visit highlighted well-established process controls, increasing customisation of clothing via in-house graphic designers and openness to sustainability considerations. It also revealed the raw materials used - specifically polyester - appear to be locally manufactured in India. In addition, local circular practices were observed such as repurposing of offcuts from cricket clothing production for other products e.g. pre-consumer waste used in boxing bags within a regional sports gear industry cluster. However, the integration of sustainability in a systemic and strategic manner across the clothing factury in Jalandhar appeared to be limited.

3. Cricket Clothing & Apparel Market Size

At the time of writing this report, no publicly available data was identified that covered the market size and number of cricket clothing items consumed and used annually in E&W. However, based on the following assumptions, an estimate of the cricket clothing market in E&W was calculated.[8]

Initial findings of the research were presented at a project webinar held in July 2025 with industry stakeholders. Feedback from a cricket brand indicated that the initial estimated figures appeared to be significantly higher than the participant's experience of the market. As result of the feedback, the assumptions were revisited, and the estimate was recalculated with further assumptions made to include use cycles and the inclusion of further clothing items. The figures should be treated as indicative rather than definitive due to a lack of reliable market data and the authors welcome further industry feedback which will be used to further refine the estimates.[9]

- In 2023, the European cricket clothing and gear market was estimated at c. £251 million, with the 60% of the market estimated to be clothing and 40% being gear.[10]
- It is estimated that E&W represents 90% of the total market (i.e. cricket gear and clothing).

[8] Assumptions include participation rates, average spending, and European market data.
[9] CfSD welcomes industry feedback on the assumptions highlighted in this section and the resulting estimates. Please email: Lilian.sanchezmoreno@uca.ac.uk.
[10] See report: *Europe Cricket Apparel & Equipment Market Size & Outlook.* Available at: https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/cricket-apparel-equipment-market/europe

- England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) estimates that there are 300,000 regular adult participants in cricket (ECB 2023 figures) and an overall total of 2 million recreational, school, youth, and club-affiliated cricketers.
- Based on desk research and primary research (500+ player survey), it was estimated that the average player spends £105–140 on purchasing a full kit (shirts, trousers, jumpers),[11] with the average price per item being c. £35. These numbers are based on an average from low to mid-range items of clothing across various retailers. For example: Gunn and Moore, Gray's Nicholls, Kookaburra, etc.

As highlighted above, the European market study[12] estimated that the cricket gear and clothing market was estimated to be £251 million with cricket clothing making up 60%[13], which equated to c. £ 150 million in Europe of which £135 million is estimated to be in E&W based on the assumption that 90% of the market is in E&W. Therefore, the total European (excluding E&W) market from cricket clothing is valued at c. £15 million. Using the model based on assumptions highlighted above (2 million players overall in E&W) - it is estimated that there are an approximately 3.9 million items of cricket clothing that are sold annually in E&W (see Annex I). While the authors acknowledge that the estimated figure may appear relatively high, it represents the most robust approximation currently achievable given the limited availability of publicly accessible market data. In the absence of more comprehensive datasets or industry disclosures, this estimate should be regarded as a preliminary benchmark rather than a definitive measure. The authors welcome constructive feedback, additional evidence, and access to relevant data sources that may enable future refinement and validation of the estimate.

4. Policy and Regulatory Landscape

As indicated, an estimated 90% of cricket clothing in Europe is sold in E&W. E&W is no longer part of EU/EEA or aligned to new EC regulation and is therefore governed by English & Welsh law. Whilst the aim of this section of the report is to investigate policy and legislation relevant to cricket clothing in E&W, it also highlights forthcoming EU policy and legislation that may give potential indicators for forthcoming policy regulation in E&W that may apply to cricket clothing stakeholders. There are a range of EC regulations that are emerging that will impact on the European sports clothing sector over the next five years. Six major EC policy initiatives (highlighted below) are reviewed to give indications of potential regulatory changes that may shape the future of cricket clothing and apparel production, trade and consumption.

Relevant forthcoming EC Policies that will impact EU countries:

[11] The average price range for cricket clothing is the following: Shirts: £15 to £25; Trousers: £17 to £22 and Jumpers: £40 to £60.

[12] https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/cricket-apparel-equipment-market/europe

[13] https://www.grandviewresearch.com/horizon/outlook/cricket-apparel-equipment-market/europe

1. **Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR)** introduces a series of six measures: Product Regulations (Ecodesign Requirements); EU Ecolabel; Digital Product Passport (DPP); Ban on Destruction of Unsold Goods; Green Public Procurement (GPP); and Substances of Concern. *[Framework regulation passed on 18th July 2024: Delegated Act (DA) covering textiles ecodesign requirements currently under development, with adoption expected in Q2 2027 and a DA covering textiles DPP also in development and expected in Q3 2027]*
2. **Textile Labelling Regulation** revision will require clearer information on fibre composition, origin and disclosure of potentially hazardous substances. *[Revision expected in Q2 2026]*
3. **Waste Shipments Regulation** significantly restricts the export of textile waste to non-OECD countries, accelerating the need for domestic recycling and robust take-back systems. *[Entered into force on 20th May 2024; from 21st May 2026, the mandatory Digital Waste Shipment System (DIWASS) begins applying, digitalisation waste shipment and tracking across the EU. Additional export restrictions for textile waste shipments to non-OECD countries will apply from 21st May 2027]*
4. **Waste Framework Directive (WFD)** introduced mandatory separate collection of textiles across the EU from January 2025, requiring textiles to be collected separately from mixed municipal waste to improve textile waste collection, sorting, reuse and recycling systems. *[Became mandatory across EU Member States from 1st January 2025, although implementation and infrastructure readiness currently varies between countries]* Additionally, the revised WFD has introduced mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements for textiles, requiring producers to contribute towards the costs of textile waste management and recycling. *[Revised Directive entered into force in October 2025; Member States must transpose the textile EPR rules into national law by June 2027. Textile EPR schemes must be fully operational within 30 months (April 2028), with micro-enterprises given an additional 12 months (April 2029)]*
5. **Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive** prohibits misleading environmental claims and requires evidence-based communication of durability and repairability. *[Entered into force on 26th March 2024; Member States must transpose rules by March 2026, with requirements applying from September 2026]*
6. **REACH chemical regulations** impose controls on substances such as *Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances* (PFAS), phthalates, and certain dyes, which may be present in performance textiles, moisture-wicking treatments, or dyes and colouring. *[Existing REACH regulation remains in force; although the previously proposed broader REACH revision ("REACH 2.0") was shelved in 2026, the EC continues to develop stricter substance-specific restrictions under the existing REACH framework, particularly broader group restrictions targeting PFAS and other high-risk chemicals.]*

Collectively, these EC policies signal a clear shift towards increased accountability, transparency, and circularity across the clothing sector in Europe and E&W may follow this direction. Sports and therefore cricket clothing is unlikely to be exempt from the regulations.

Whilst UK does not fall within scope of these regulations, the EC regulations may influence the direction of future UK regulation, in particular, the anticipated UK Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) requirements. There appears to be no set date for the introduction of a specific EPR scheme for clothing

and textiles in the UK. However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been working closely with UK government to explore the potential options for a dedicated UK textile EPR scheme.[14] WRAP[15] has published two reports that provide valuable insights into how the UK EPR scheme for clothing could be shaped. This includes recommendations covering: the introduction of eco-design criteria to improve product durability and recyclability; more effective product labelling; restrictions on landfill and incineration; grants and loans to develop recycling infrastructure; and an increase in separation and collections appropriate to geographical location. Further UK initiatives include the Circular Economy Taskforce (CET) which includes the textile sector as one of the key sector focus areas. The outcome of the CET is a Circular Economy Growth Strategy, but its publication has been further delayed to Q3 2026. [16]

Considering the work being undertaken within WRAP and CET, and the evolving EC policy and regulation landscape, the potential implications for the cricket clothing sector in E&W include:

- Enhanced traceability and data collection, especially regarding origin of raw materials, chemicals, production sites, and unsold stock.
- Design innovation, focusing on garment durability (which currently represents a challenge for defining and calculating), repairability, recyclability and reduced chemical dependency (this also represents a challenge for the sports sector, due to performance requirements which include wicking, colour fastness, breathability and stretch, which require textiles to undergo chemical processing).
- Potential increase of localised recycling services and stronger oversight of overseas manufacturers.
- New business models, such as take-back schemes, direct reuse, pay-for-use and rental services.

5. Use-Phase Behaviour and Consumer Attitudes

To improve understanding of awareness and behaviour related to cricket clothing, a survey of 510 recreational players in E&W was conducted in July 2025. This study was informed by the findings from the analysis of the cricket clothing market, supply chain issues and forthcoming policy and legislation. The survey aimed to gain specific insights into player perspectives on sustainability considerations in relation to cricket clothing, alongside *use* phase considerations that might have implications for potential product circularity initiatives and circular business models. The survey findings provide insights into garment use, care, and disposal - areas previously undocumented in the cricket clothing sector. The key findings are summarised below:

[14] For further information see: "What an EPR Scheme of the UK's Fashion and Textiles Industry could Look Like". Available at: https://www.wrap.ngo/media-centre/press-releases/what-extended-producer-responsibility-epr-scheme-uks-fashion-and

[15] See: "What an EPR Scheme of the UK's Fashion and Textiles Industry could Look Like". Available at: https://www.wrap.ngo/media-centre/press-releases/what-extended-producer-responsibility-epr-scheme-uks-fashion-and
Also see: "Textile Policy Options and Cost Benefit Analysis". Available at: https://www.wrap.ngo/resources/report/textiles-policy-options-and-cost-benefit-analysis

[16] https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/circular-economy-strategy-delayed-until-2026/

- Players typically own multiple shirts and trousers, keep most garments for around two years, and dispose of them primarily due to staining or damage.
- Jumpers exhibit slightly longer lifespans and more varied disposal drivers (e.g. grass or tea stains, and wear and tear).
- Emerging sustainability behaviours are evident: with 7% of players claiming to consider material quality in purchasing decisions and 73% indicating that they have engaged in repair (either paid for repairs or self-repair).
- Regarding end-of-life solutions, 33% indicated that they donate cricket clothing for direct reuse.
- Openness to rental models is mixed for adults, with 54% indicating that they would consider rental models for cricket clothing.[17] The main reasons provided for potential use of rental models include: "lower upfront cost", "flexibility and convenience", "access to premium or updated technology", "reduced maintenance burden" and "trial before commitment", among others.
- However, interest was significantly higher for rental schemes for children's cricket clothing with 77% responding positively.
- Overall, the findings related to *use* and post 1st *use* phases indicate that there is premature disposal of stained whites, and opportunities for product life extension are being missed, including repair services, improved care guidance and higher-durability design.

6. Circular Innovation: Options for the Cricket Clothing & Apparel Sector

The PSCP project also sought to explore potential product circularity strategies for the cricket clothing through a site visit and workshop. In this context, a site visit to ACS Clothing in Glasgow, Scotland was conducted. Established in 1997, ACS Clothing is a leading fashion and clothing rental and renewal reverse logistics provider in the UK. While ACS's cleaning and sanitisation solutions are compatible with the materials used in cricket clothing and apparel, the operational costs associated with reverse logistics indicate that the implementation of Circular Business Models (CBMs) in this sector is likely to be most viable for high-value cricket clothing items, such as wool jumpers. The visit also highlighted that the seasonal nature of cricket makes rental schemes for clothing and gear both practical and potentially economically viable, as rental schemes would lower upfront cost, offer the possibility of accessing premium clothing, reduce maintenance burden and offer flexibility and convenience to players. This finding is reinforced by the player survey, which demonstrated positive player interest in rental schemes, supporting their potential economic viability and practical appeal within the seasonal cricket market. Such rental schemes could also reduce the need for players to store bulky cricket gear during the off-season, while also enabling players to access clean, high-quality clothing and equipment at the start of each season. However, trends appear to be towards increased individual ownership rather than renting - particularly from younger adult and female players. As mentioned above, the survey of 510 recreational players suggests that only 50% of respondents would be open to renting their cricket clothing. However, rental could be a more viable CBM for children's cricket clothing due to growth phases of young children through to teenagers with 77% of respondents expressing interest in such a scheme.

[17] While this figure is based on a 500+ player survey, it is felt that numbers are potentially higher and further investigation is required to further validate the findings.

Further research and innovation activities completed within the PSCP project included the organisation of a repair and upcycling workshop with MA students at UCA in March 2025 and a further workshop in May 2026[18], as part of the Circular Cultures (2C) project, that highlighted potential solutions for end-of-life cricket clothing including proposals for repurposing cricket clothing textiles into fashion accessories, soft furnishings, repair kit solutions, among other concepts.[19] Due to the low value material used for cricket clothing and apparel, the economic viability of repairing or repurposing polyester textiles needs to be explored further. Further desk research identified an organisation that appears to use fibres from end-of-life cricket clothing as an internal padding for a secondary product (Recodog-dog beds).[20]

7. Checklist for Circular Design Strategies, Policy and Legislation for the Cricket Clothing and Apparel Industry (PSCP Tool)

To support cricket clothing companies in preparing for emerging regulatory and market changes, a checklist outlining relevant circular design strategies, policies, and legislation for the cricket clothing and apparel industry has been developed**.** The checklist is intended to be used as a structured, iterative tool to support the identification of environmental hotspots in cricket clothing and apparel and to guide the selection and prioritisation of appropriate product circularity strategies, supporting both practical decision-making and alignment with emerging regulatory requirements. The checklist has been organised according to key target areas relevant to cricket clothing circularity. For each target area, sections are structured to include: (1) data collection requirements to support policy compliance and identify potential intervention areas; (2) hotspot analysis and the identification of relevant product circularity (PC) strategies; (3) a simple yes/no assessment to indicate applicability or implementation status; and (4) the relevant stakeholders and associated policies linked to each area. The tool has been included as an **Annex II,** which also includes detailed instruction on use.

8. Conclusion

This report has shown that the cricket clothing sector currently operates within a largely linear system with limited direct reuse options and early disposal due to the changes in sponsors and league logos. Furthermore, there are currently limited recycling options for polyester-based clothing due to insufficient recycling infrastructures, limited technology and lack cost-effective processing at a global level.

While polyester makes up 57% of the textiles used for the clothing and textiles industry, studies show that under 1% of this is recycled into new clothing.[21] Furthermore, data from Fashion for Good shows that 12%

[18] https://cfsd.org.uk/projects/2c/events/products-problems-and-prototypes/
[19] A full report of the upcycling workshop findings will be available on the project website in due coruse. Available at: https://cfsd.org.uk/projects/2c/research/
[20] https://www.brightsecurerecycling.com/recodog
[21] Jana Enking, Amrei Becker, Gilbert Schu, Marcel Gausmann, Stefano Cucurachi, Arnold Tukker, Thomas Gries, "Recycling processes of polyester-containing textile waste–A review", *Resources, Conservation and Recycling,* Volume 219, 2025. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921344925001351

of the total polyester market is made up of recycled polyester. However, this mainly originates from plastic bottles (rPET) rather than old garments,[22] highlighting the significant challenges in textile-to-textile recycling. Aligned to this, J. Enking et al. (2025) reviewed the current state of the art in textile recycling methods for PET-containing textiles, highlighting significant gaps in the performance, techno-economic evaluation, and environmental assessment of polyester (PET) recycling technologies. This paper highlights that there is currently limited research and data covering the cost-effectiveness and environmental impact of most recycling methods for polyester-containing textile waste. This includes, for example, energy, chemical, water usage, compared to other waste management strategies e.g., incineration and landfill disposal. The study also emphasises that recycled PET (rPET) needs to become cost-competitive with virgin PET for its use to be mainstreamed. Further research is required into the performance of different recycling technologies as current research is limited to challenges associated with fibre blends, dyes and coatings in relation to their impact on impurities and performance.[23]

However, this report also shows that while the cricket clothing sector operates within a linear system, there is clear potential for improved circularity through regulation, design and technological advancement. For example, there are examples of technologies that are starting to emerge for recycling sublimated polyester such as "Recyc'Elit"[24] Likewise, a handful of professional cricket clubs appear to have taken action to reduce their reliance on virgin polyester and raise awareness on the environmental impact of cricket clothing. For example, in 2020, Warwickshire County Cricket Club introduced shirts using 50% mix of bamboo and charcoal, with polyester. [25] Further examples include Kookaburra's Elite Eco range, which is made with 100% recycled polyester,[26] Desert Vipers using a mixed percentage of recycled polyester[27] and cotton, and Lacuna's women's cricket clothing, that uses lower impact materials including Tencel and Lyocell.[28]

Lastly, the report highlights that the implementation of sector-specific policies and regulations covering clothing has the potential to foster improved product circularity, increased data collection and transparency, investment in recycling infrastructure, and extended product lifecycles. These opportunities are further reinforced by positive attitudes towards rental schemes for children's cricket clothing and higher-value items, such as cricket jumpers, which indicate a potential role for circular business models and warrant further exploration.

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[22] 99% of the 12% of recycled polyester going into garments originates from recycled plastic bottles rather than textile to textile recycling. See: https://www.fashionforgood.com/our_news/can-we-recycle-polyester/#:~:text=Bottle%2Dto%2Dtextile:%20According,polyester%20feedstock%20into%20new%20fibres

[23] Jana Enking, Amrei Becker, Gilbert Schu, Marcel Gausmann, Stefano Cucurachi, Arnold Tukker, Thomas Gries, "Recycling processes of polyester-containing textile waste–A review", *Resources, Conservation and Recycling,* Volume 219, 2025. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921344925001351

[24] https://www.recyc-elit.com/en

[25] https://leamingtonobserver.co.uk/sport/bears-launch-new-bamboo-material-t20-playing-shirt-20474/

[26] https://www.kookaburrasport.co.uk/elite-eco-cricket-shirt?srsltid=AfmBOoqvoDXN08Yu9cJYdqQz4SWjN8bKPCWpFvopIqYp0pPvZhX4SaZj

[27] https://www.thedesertvipers.com/news/the-desert-vipers-and-palmfit-lead-environmental-consciousness-in-sports-apparel/

[28] https://lacunasports.co.uk/en/shop/tops/spin-short-sleeved-top/#content

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ANNEX I: Cricket Clothing Assumptions

The following model was used to estimate how many items of cricket clothing are sold annually in England and Wales (E&W)**.**

Item/Description	**Market Value**
European market value for Cricket Clothing	£150 million
England and Wales market value for cricket clothing	c. £135 million (based on holding 90% of European market)
Using average price assumptions of £25 per unit	**The total number of items sold annually is approximately 3.9 million items.**

ANNEX II: Checklist for Circular Design Strategies, Policy and Legislation for the Cricket Clothing and Apparel Industry (PSCP Tool)

Below is a description on how to use the checklist:

1. Data Collection

Use of the checklist begins with systematic data collection. Designers, supply chain executives and/or sustainability managers should first collate the information specified in the checklist's data collection column, which provides an evidence base for identifying environmental hotspots across the product life cycle. This stage not only highlights areas where environmental impacts are most significant but also supports compliance with emerging sustainability reporting and regulatory requirements.

2. Identification and Analysis of Environmental Hotspots

Once the required data has been collected, the checklist can be used to help to identify and analyse environmental hotspots and assess relevant product circularity strategies. By working through the questions in the hotspot analysis and product circularity strategies column, users can identify areas of concern and determine where intervention is most needed. Priority should be given to product areas identified as a priority, such as material composition and sourcing or durability and performance, as these indicate greater potential for impact reduction.

3. Feasibility and Prioritisation of Circular Strategies

Following hotspot identification, the feasibility and prioritisation of circular strategies should be assessed collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders highlighted in the checklist. Areas marked as a priority in the previous step in the checklist should be discussed with the relevant internal and external stakeholders. This process should evaluate alignment of relevant circular strategies with organisational sustainability objectives, as well as the technical, economic, and operational feasibility of implementing the proposed product circularity strategies in both the short, medium and long term. The expected benefits, potential challenges, and implementation constraints associated with each identified product circularity strategy should be documented.

4. Further Iterations

Finally, the checklist supports an iterative process of recording, improvement and reassessment. The data collected can be used to prepare for forthcoming policy and legislative requirements (see "Policy and Regulatory Landscape" section of this report). Following the implementation of any product circularity strategy and any related design innovation, the checklist should be revisited and Steps 1 to 3 repeated to ensure continuous improvement and ongoing alignment with circular economy principles.

Checklist for Circular Design Strategies, Policy and Legislation for the Cricket Clothing and Apparel Industry

Target Area	Data Collection: Preparing for Policy Compliance & Identifying Intervention Area/s	Hotspot Analysis and Identifying Product Circularity (PC) Strategies	Yes/No	Relevant Stakeholders and Relevant Policy
Material Composition and source	Document fibre types	Are the fibres in the product primarily made from fossil fuel-based virgin materials? PC strategies: Implement material substitution to replace fossil fuel-based materials with a biobased or recycled alternative.		Stakeholders: • Procurement • Designers • Supply chain (textile manufacturers) Relevant Policy: • Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) (Product Regulations, EU Ecolabel: Digital Product Passport (DPP); Substances of Concern) • Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive
	Document fibre source country. Document yarn and fabric mill country origin	Are the fibres sourced locally? Are the fibres sourced in a country that has workers' rights and protection in place? Has the country where the fibres are sourced been involved in any workers rights/ exploitation related issues? PC strategies: Source from local manufacturers to reduce carbon footprint from transportation.		
	Document recycled content (% type: post-consumer/pre-consumer)	Does the product contain recycled content? What percentage of the product originates from recycled content? What is the source of the recycled content? Can the product be recycled? What happens to pre-consumer waste? E.g., offcuts PC strategies: Increase the percentage of recycled content. Design for zero waste pattern cuttings. Identify a use for the off cuts/pre-consumer waste.		

	Document certifications (e.g. OEKO-TEX, Bluesign, etc)			
Manufacturing and Supply Chain	Collect data related to factory name and location	Are the fibres sourced locally? Are the fibres sourced in a country that has workers' rights and protection in place? Has the country where the fibres are sourced been involved in any workers' rights/ exploitation related issues? PC strategies: Source from local manufacturers to reduce carbon footprint from transportation e.g., local production, use of local materials, etc		Stakeholders: • Procurement • Designers • Supply chain (textile manufacturers
	Subcontractors used (e.g., printing, embroidery)	Where are subcontractors located? Are subcontractors located in countries with adequate workers' rights? Have subcontractors been audited?		
	Labour and social compliance certifications			
Durability & Performance Data	Wash cycles tested (e.g., ISO 6330)	How many wash cycles can the product withstand? PC strategies: Design for durability (stronger materials, odour and sweat resistant materials to avoid frequent washing) to increase wash cycles based on industry standards.		Stakeholders: • Procurement • Designers • Supply chain (textile manufacturers) • Research and Innovation • Testing and compliance Relevant Policy: • Eco-design for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR): (Product Regulations (Ecodesign Requirements); EU Ecolabel: Digital Product Passport (DPP))
	Document tear strength / abrasion resistance	PC strategies: Design for durability by using tear and wear resistant materials that achieve for example, a higher Martindale test score, to increase tear strength and abrasion		

		resistance based on industry standards.		
	Stretch and recovery material properties (for compression gear)			
Unsold Product Disclosure Preparation	Record of annual unsold inventory (units + weight)	PC strategies: Implement production on demand to reduce unsold items.		Stakeholders: • Procurement • Designers • Supply chain (textile manufacturers) • Research and Innovation • Testing and compliance • Recycling facilities • Local authorities • Consumers Relevant Policy: • ESPR- Rules against destroying unsold products. • Waste Shipment Regulation
	Document reasons for discarding (e.g., surplus, defects, returned)	PC strategies: Implement production on demand to reduce surplus Implement take back schemes to recover product parts and complements that can be reused within a closed loop system.		
	Document disposal methods (e.g., donation, recycling, destruction)	Do you have a take back scheme for unwanted products? Can your products be recycled? How long are products kept in use? PC strategies: design for disassembly, reuse and remanufacture that can facilitate product life extension and reduce early disposal		
Chemical Usage	List of chemicals used in dyeing/finishing	Does the manufacturing process use any substances of concern?		Relevant Policy: • Regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation, and restriction of chemicals (REACH)
	Documents chemical suppliers	Are the chemicals used in compliance with REACH		
	Document treatment details (e.g., anti-odour, water repellent coatings)	Do any of the treatment coatings contain any substance of concern?		
End-of-life Guidance	Care instructions (washing, drying, repairability)	Do the garments contain clear care instructions? Can the garments be repaired easily? Do you offer repair services or guidelines? PC strategies: Design for repair, recovery, second life parts and/or components, recycle.		Stakeholders: • Procurement • Designers • Supply chain (textile manufacturers) • Research and Innovation • Testing and compliance • Recycling facilities • Local authorities • Consumers

				Relevant Policy: • Textile Labelling Regulation Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition Directive