

Multimedia / Social Media Policy

Rational: The area of Social and multimedia communication has become an area where the club needs to establish a protocol to ensure our members will not be at risk.

Considerations:

Texting:

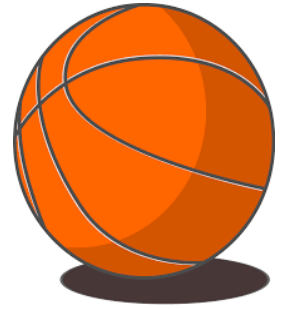
- The clubs policy is to communicate only with parents from U12 up to U18.
- Parents/Members will only receive text messages from their team manager, coach or the club secretary.
- We encourage the use of group texting as a means of communicating around training and matches etc. Whatsapp is generally used for group texts and parents are deemed to have accepted this as a means of communication for team communication on registration.
- Managers/coaches/Committee members will be the only ones to send texts etc.
- Managers/coaches/Committee members will avoid constant/specific communication with individual young people and would recommend liaising with parents/guardians **ONLY** on club associated matters.
- Keep messages brief and related to sport and club activities

Mobile Phones

- Most children make use of a mobile phone. This has become an area where the club needs to establish a protocol to ensure our members will not be at risk.
- Mobiles phone and their use is expressly forbidden in changing rooms and toilets
- Phones are not to be used as a form of bullying. e.g. where photos are taken of individual's where no consent has been sought or given. (They expressly say they do not want their photo taken)
- Where offensive content being taken is distributed or found on a club member's mobile phone, face book page, twitter account etc. That player will face sanction form the club. (As outlined in clubs code of discipline).

Young people are advised as follows:

- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent and the Club Children's Officer (Ursula Thompson/Mark Conroy), this offense content can then be dealt with in an appropriate manner by the club and the parents/guardian.



- Be careful about who you give your number to and do not respond to unfamiliar numbers.
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying or harassment.
- Avoid using your phone in certain locations – inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person's, e.g. in the changing rooms.
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item so that you guard against theft.

Websites, Social Networks (Facebook, twitter etc.)

- Most young people avail of social networking for communicating/networking
- The club uses a Facebook page to share information regarding training times and matches.
- The Manager/coach may use social media to supply match reports/photographs
- The Team Whatsapp group is for team notifications only, no personal discussions or team issues to be discussed. If there are issues please revert to private communication or Club official correspondence via email with persons involved.
- We encourage all members to be responsible regarding club/organisation use of these networks.
- This interaction between adults and young people on Facebook is to be exclusively about sport (match results and reports)
- It is not suitable to discuss player performances and or opposition or match officials.
- Where offensive content is distributed or found on a club member's mobile phone, facebook page, twitter account etc. That member will face sanctions from the club. (As outlined in clubs code of discipline)

All Committee members/Managers/Coaches should be fully aware of these responsibilities when communicating on social websites mobile phones etc regarding club matters, members and club/organisation in general. This information/document is to be communicated to all parents and players