Hythe & Dibden Cricket Club

Social Media and Communication Policy

Introduction:
The purpose of this guidance is to provide information, advice and guidance on the use of social networking for coaches, team members and parents to enable them to understand:
- the potential safeguarding risks of social media
- to provide good practice guidelines for the safe use of social media

Potential Safeguarding risks:
With all emerging technology there is also potential for abuse. Risks associated with user interactive services include:
- cyberbullying. There is extensive advice and support material on the issue of cyberbullying on the NSPCC website here
- grooming and potential abuse by on line predators
  https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/social-media-age-limit/
- exposure to inappropriate content including racist & self-hate content as well as pornography
- privacy issues associated with posting personal information that can identify and locate a child
- privacy issues associated with adults posing as young people and using social media to contact other young people
- inappropriate contact with a young person by a trusted adult

However, there are other areas where young people themselves can unwittingly expose themselves to issues which, whilst not child safeguarding, could have a lasting impact upon their lives. In all communications online, it is becoming clear that the loss of privacy can have a detrimental effect on a person or young person in a way that was not initially intended.

Contacting young people:
It is fundamental that everyone remembers that whatever social media they use to they behave appropriately. Do not place young people or yourself at risk. Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club have produced the following support:

1. All communication will be made via parents/guardians for colts under the age of 16 years old
2. Consent must be obtained from parents/guardians for children aged 16 – 18 years old to be contacted directly by coaches, managers and captains of the club
3. Facebook is currently seen as the way young people can be contacted easily and quickly. However, this type of media can pose particular problems for volunteers using their own sites as personal information can be unwittingly shared. Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club policy is that coaches, managers or volunteers must not use their own Facebook page or Twitter

account and must not become a personal friend of any young person who they are in a position of trust for or who they coach.

4. No young people can be contacted by Facebook below the minimum age of use for the service. This is currently 13 years of age.
5. In order to deal with young people's request to use Facebook, there is a Hythe and Dibden Cricket Club colts Facebook page for team members (over the age of 13), their parents, the team managers and coaches to use. This will be a secure page and monitored for content. Postings will be monitored and any unacceptable content will be reported to the Welfare Officer and appropriate actions taken promptly.

Even with a controlled site there are difficulties and information needs to be considered and appropriate. It must be remembered that:

● You should always think before you post

● Information displayed should follow normal conventions of safe behaviour. There should be no postings that will compromise coaches or volunteers own personal information boundaries and relationships

● Always remember that anything you say including photos, pictures and video clips posted on sites may be shared with and saved by people other than those for whom it was intended

● Once information is posted online individuals have little control over it and it could go well beyond the original purpose

● Never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be intimate, private, hurtful, untrue and upsetting or that you may regret posting later

● There should be no images of young people on the site without prior permission. If you do want to upload such a picture you must get advice and the consent of your parent, the other young person, their parent and the team or event manager before even considering uploading such a photograph. Please see photography policy on the club website

Practical tips for parents to help minimise the risks your child might face:

● Its good practice for apps and websites to have safety advice and well-designed safety features which can make a real difference to how safe your child will be when using them.
● Work through safety and privacy features on the apps that your child is using, or might use. Make sure they understand the point of these and how to use them.
● Don't be put off by believing your child knows more than you: the tools are actually quite easy to manage.
● **Ask them to show you** which social media apps they use and what they like about them. Talk about how they use them and what makes them so engaging.
●   **Explain** how you can use privacy settings to make sure only approved friends can see posts & images.
● **Check if any of their apps have 'geo-location'** enabled, sharing their location unintentionally**.**

- **Show them how to report offensive comments** or block people who upset them.
- **Check 'tagging' settings** so that when others are posting or sharing photos online, your child's identity is not revealed. Also, get people's consent before sharing photos.
- Encourage your child to **come and talk to you** if they see anything that upsets them.