



**NETBALL  
SCOTLAND**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
POLICY**



## **NETBALL SCOTLAND COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

### **APPENDIX 2**

#### **GOOD PRACTICE ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

##### **Safety**

Online technology has advanced and changed the way people communicate and interact daily. Sports organisations, coaches and others involved in providing activities for children and young people are increasingly using the internet and social media to promote sport and communicate.

Although digital media and communication can provide benefits for those involved, they also pose potential safeguarding risks to children and young people.

##### **Communicating with U18s via social media**

Adults and young persons should not be 'friending' or 'following' each other, outside of the netball relationship. Communications for netball purposes should be through sites/identities which are public and managed by the club. This applies to adults in a position of trust as well as to the adults who come into contact with young people through netball. For example:

Coaches should aim to avoid unnecessary 1 to 1 direct communication with athletes under 18 years by: Text message, e-mail or instant message/social network site

If using these methods others should be copied in e.g. assistant coach/parent etc

- coaches should limit communication to athlete-related matters / send in a group
- for under 16 parental consent is needed
- for under 18 parents should be made aware

##### **Keeping yourself safe**

No matter your security settings social media is public, the general advice is to only post what you are happy for people to see. Travel arrangements, closed training information or personal information should be kept from your main page.

You are in control of how much information you share on your social networks or any other website. Do not post information you consider to be private.

If you are ever unsure, we recommend you ask yourself the following questions:

- who am I sharing this information with?
- how much and what type of information am I sharing?
- how many people can see the information I am sharing?
- can I trust all the people that see this information?



If someone requests you remove information that you posted about them, please honour their request and remove the post.

### **Attitude**

Everyone should be mindful that social media must not be used to insult, belittle or criticise other members, teams, players, officials, volunteers, partners or staff of Netball Scotland.

Expressing your opinion is fine, being rude in the way you express it or expressing discriminatory views is not and could lead to the individual who posted the comment, anyone who forwards or positively affirms the comment, and the person with administrative rights for the site used, being subject to Disciplinary Action. Anyone who has posted an offensive message or image is advised to remove the comment as soon as possible, to reduce its impact.

### **Top Tips for Clubs to promote safe and responsible social media behaviours in U18s**

- have regular conversations with your players about positive online behaviours and expectations
- engage with the parents & carers of U18s about the club's policies and expectations
- use posters and other resource in your venue
- post safe online guidelines or posters on your club's social media pages
- give reminders ahead of events
- do a post-Xmas reminder about appropriate use of social media and mobile phones as there is a spike in the number of reported incidents at this time, anecdotally linked to new device as Xmas gifts