



Garboldisham Cricket Club – Social Media Policy

Garboldisham Cricket Club (The Club) are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our children and adults. So that they are able to do this the are requirements of what should be put on club website and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter, Instagram,

Social media is to only be used in a positive manor to provide positive communication opportunities with parents/carers and member over the age of 18 at the club.

Some examples of when the club may use social media for messaging, sharing images and videos of success and live stream matches.

(The word children should be taken to mean all persons under the age of 18 under the Children's Act)

Club officials/staff/volunteers

Social media when used properly can be a positive way of promoting the club and cricket in general, as well as being a way to stay in touch with club members/parents and carers. it is

important that all club officials, staff and volunteers have separate accounts for the club to their personal account.

- Must keep personal pages private from the children that are coached at the club.
- Personal pages and cricket club pages should be kept separate, with any information regarding contacting players (especially under the age of 18) through the club page regarding matches, training and any other cricket club business.
- It is important that the privacy setting of your private account is set a 'friends'. Keeping all contact with young players to the cricket club page.
- Coaches must inform the Club safeguarding officer of any friend requests from a child at the cricket club.
- Any direct communication or interaction with a child on social media platform could be misconstrued as overstepping expected professional boundaries.
- The content of what you post on the club page needs to be thought through carefully as you are representing of the club, remembering the safe hands policy. Consider whether you would be happy for those you are coaching, or their parents to see your posts.

- Make sure you have consent before posting personal information online – including photographs.
- When contacting juniors regarding things like games ect it must be done through the parents.
- Do not send private messages to children through text or social media.
- Do not invite or accept invites from juniors on any form of social media.
- Do not sent inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory.
- For coaches, any communication with anyone you are in a coaching relationship with should adhere to the expected standards in the coaches code of conduct.
- You should never criticise players, team members or their parents online.
- Ensure all club social media accounts have more than one admin and keep your account secure by enabling two factor authentication.

Remember when posting:

- **You are representing the club.**

- **Your communications should conform to Safe Hands Guidance.**
- **Your post should not cause personal distress or be seen as inappropriate content.**
- **If you would not put it on the club notice board then it doesn't belong on social media.**
- **Avoid using images and names of children on social media and live streaming.**

Texts, apps and Emails

All arrangements for Under 18's MUST be made via their parents or carers, especially in regards to all training and match arrangements this includes text, email and Whats app messages ect.

The only acceptable exception for this rule is, to text or email the parent or carer and copy in the 16 or 17 year old. Any one younger than 16 this rule does not apply and should only be the parent or carer that is contacted. If you receive any responses that appear to be inappropriate they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer. Coaches, captains and managers should not engage in any individual conversations with the 16 or 17 year old without the parent or carer receiving the exact same message from

you. All contact should be training, match and cricket related activity.

Social Media Do's for Coaches, Managers, Captains and the Club.

- Have separate social media accounts for cricket - club related and personal use.
- Keep your photos and personal information private.
- Apply the codes of conduct and appropriate professionalism to your behaviour online, by email and text.
- Obtain consent before posting any personal information online – this included photographs where an individual can be identified.
- Remember the picture/no name guidance for under 18's.

DO NOT's for Coaches, Managers, Captains and the Club.

- **DO NOT** send text messages or emails to juniors (UNDER 16's) – **MAKE ARRANGEMENTS VIA THEIR PARENTS!** OVER THE AGE OF 16 you must contact the parents/carers still but if you have consent from the parents the child can be copied in.
- You must not engage in communication with any children without the parents being copied in.

- **DO NOT** send private messages to children and young people via apps or social media.
- **DO NOT** invite or accept children and young people to become 'friends' on social media.
- **DO NOT** send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way.
- if the club or parents/carers and children receive messages that seem inappropriate then these should be brought to the attention of the club Safeguarding Officer immediately.

Adult players in Open Age teams

Garboldisham Cricket Club adult members who participate in Open Age Teams should be mindful of who may have access to material they share via social media platforms.

Concerns

If you have any concerns and suspect that someone is using social media in an unsafe or inappropriate manner, then you should go direct and report this to the Club Safeguarding Officer (Debbie Raven), the county Safeguarding Officer or the ECB Safeguarding team – email safeguarding@ecb.co.uk

If you believe that an offence has been committed, or that someone's use of social media is placing a child at risk of harm, inform the police immediately.