



## NCU Social Media Guidance for Coaches / Managers / Volunteers

### Social Media / Network Pages

- You should not 'friend' or 'follow' an NCU age grade player on social media. (Children or young people may 'follow' leaders on social media so leaders should make sure any content they post is appropriate.)
- Messages left to or from NCU age grade players on an NCU social media / network sites should be written on an open page (e.g. A Facebook 'Wall') and not in a private message or by using 'chat' [one-on-one].
- You should not network or communicate with NCU age grade player via closed [one-on-one] chats e.g. Facebook messenger, WhatsApp, etc.. This should be done only through 'Group Chat.'
- Any events or activities run by the NCU that are organised or publicised on an NCU social media or network page should be a closed event so as non-members cannot access the event without suitable permission by the site administrators.
- If emails are required to be sent to an NCU age grade player via an NCU social media or network site they must be sent to at least one other Coach / Manager / Volunteer. (This can be done by 'bcc' if necessary.)
- You should avoid communicating with NCU age grade players' via email late at night.
- In signing off a post or email you should not do so in a way that could be misconstrued or misinterpreted by the recipient, e.g. "Luv X"; "xoxoxo". Simply sign your name.
- Parents/guardians should be asked to give their approval for NCU designated leaders to communicate with their NCU age grade player via social networking sites or by any other means of internet communications (e.g. email).
- Parental permission is required before pictures/videos of any NCU age grade player are posted online.
- Any disclosures of abuses reported through a social networking site must be dealt with following the NCU and Cricket Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy.

### Use of Mobile Phones

Those whose work with children and young people need to be aware of the opportunities for abuse through the misuse of mobile phones and text messaging. While good use of such media can be beneficial we must be vigilant and alert to the possibilities of misuse and consequent harm that can result to young people. Players / Coaches / Managers / Volunteers must also take care to safeguard themselves against allegation.

- You should only have an NCU age grade player's mobile number if the nature of your involvement requires you to phone or text them.
- Parental permission should be sought if, in your role, you will be contacting an NCU age grade player via mobile phone.
- Texts should not be deleted in order that they can be openly shared with the NCU Management Team if requested.
- If you have an NCU age grade player phone number it should only be used for the purposes it has been given, i.e. you should not share this information.

## **Texting – Communication not Conversation!**

- Texts should be used for the purposes of reminding NCU age grade players' about events which are forthcoming.
- If it turns into a conversation, communications should be ended. You can suggest discussing the subject further at the next event or, if you are concerned about the child/young person, you should follow the Cricket Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy

## **Use of Smart Phones**

- Smart phones should be used safely and responsibly. Pictures can be very powerful and stir up strong emotions. Smart phone users should respect the private lives of others and not take or distribute pictures of other people without their permission.
- No NCU Coach / Manager / Volunteer should send any pictures that are obscene, indecent, or menacing at any time. You should also be sensitive about other people's gender identity, sexual identity, racial heritage, religion, or personal background. Insensitivity may be construed as bullying activity. It is also a criminal offence to take, make, permit to be taken, distribute, show, or possess an indecent or sexually explicit image of a child under 18.

## **Use of Mobile phones during activities**

- During any NCU activity the named leader is the primary point of communication and is to be contacted if there is an emergency or change to previously agreed arrangements.
- The usage of mobiles phones including text messaging or playing games cannot be a distraction from a safe awareness of the environment or be allowed to interfere with full participation in the cricket activity. You should agree the spectrum / limitations of player mobile phone use with your NCU age grade player group prior to the session/activity/game/Tour.
- When on training camps or overnight activities you should communicate a stated preferred time period when parents may make contact, if they wish. Parents should be advised that contact outside of this time may not be possible due to activities.
- The use of phones while away can worsen rather than alleviate homesickness (particularly for younger players). In this context it can be good to encourage children/young people to consider that 'no news is good news.'