



## NCU Social Media Guidance for Player / Parents / Guardians

### Social Media / Network Pages

- NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should not 'friend' or 'follow' NCU age grade players on social media.
- 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].
- An NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should not network or communicate with an NCU age grade players 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 NCU age grade players via an NCU social media or network site they will be sent to at least one other Coach / Manager / Volunteer. (This can be done by 'bcc' if necessary.)
- Parents/guardians will be asked to give their approval for NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers to communicate with their NCU age grade children via social networking sites, or by any other means of internet communications (e.g. email).
- Parental permission is required before pictures/videos of NCU age grade players are posted online.
- Any disclosures of abuses reported through a social networking site will be dealt with following the NCU and Cricket Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy.

### Use of Mobile Phones

- NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should only have an NCU age grade player's mobile number if the nature of their involvement requires them to phone or text.
- Parental permission should be sought if, in their role, NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers will be contacting children or young people via mobile phone.
- Texts should be openly shared between NCU age grade players and their parents.
- If an NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers has an NCU age grade player's mobile phone number it should only be used for the purposes it has been given and will not be shared with anyone.

### Texting – Communication not Conversation!

- NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers Texts should only be used for the purposes of reminding NCU age grade players about events which are forthcoming.
- If texting turns into a conversation, communications should be ended. NCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers may suggest discussing the subject further at the next event or, if they are concerned about an NCU age grade player, they will 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 age grade player should send any pictures that are obscene, indecent, or menacing. 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 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. Your Lead Coach / Manager / Volunteer will advise 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 there will be 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 remember that 'no news is good news.'