



## **E-Safety Guidelines: For Coaches, Managers and others' in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children**

The Internet is an amazing tool it opens up so many educational and social opportunities, giving you access to, quite literally, a world of information and experiences.

Whilst these technologies provide exciting opportunities, they are accompanied by dangers and negative consequences if abused by users.

Brook CC is keen to promote the safe, and responsible, use of communication and interactive communication technologies within cricket. The following guidelines have been put together to ensure the message of safe and responsible use of communication and interactive technologies is understood and are followed within cricket.

Social networking opens up more threats to all users including:

- Posting personal information that can identify and locate a child offline
  - Sexual grooming, luring, exploitation and abuse contact with strangers
  - Exposure to inappropriate and/or illegal content
  - Involvement in making or distributing illegal or inappropriate content
  - Theft of personal information
  - Leaving and running away from home as a result of contacts made online
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- Bullying by peers and people they consider 'friends'

In order to safeguard all children within cricket and to avoid any misinterpretation of online activity by coaches, managers and others Brook CC does not advocate social network contact between and children under 18.

The following of adults in cricket by children and following children by adults on Twitter is strongly not recommended.

If a coach/manager believes this is the best way to share information regarding the team – match times/venues etc., they can set up a face book page in the name of the team which the children can then become members. Any photographs of the coaches will be representative of them and their phone numbers will be included in the page (as they are in the fixture book).

### **Guidance for, coaches, managers and others in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children the Club:**

- § Take responsibility for their own use of communication and interactive technologies, making sure they use new technologies safely, responsibly and legally within the context of cricket.



- § No communication device or service, including interactive communication services such as social networking may be used to bring the club, its members or cricket into disrepute
- § No communication device or service, including interactive services such as social networking may be used for inappropriate behaviour online within the context of cricket including the bullying or harassment of others in any form, defamation, obscene or abusive language, the uploading of material which is libellous, defamatory, obscene, illegal, shows nudity or is violent
- Report any known misuses of communication and interactive technologies within the context of cricket, including unacceptable behaviour, inappropriate contact with children online and illegal content including sexual abuse/indecent images of children, according to the relevant club and ECB safeguarding policies and procedures
- Need to be aware that any report of the misuse of communication and interactive technologies within the context of cricket will be investigated according to the club's policy and procedures and may result in the club's sanctions being enforced. Depending upon the seriousness of the incident legal action may be taken and where suspected criminal activity has taken place a report will be made to the police where a club provides network access or communication devices all members and guests will:
- Protect passwords and personal network logins and log off the network when leaving web stations/devices unattended. Where available security settings should be set on mobile devices. Any attempts to access, corrupt or destroy other users' data in any way using technology is unacceptable In addition to the above club officers and appointed volunteers will:

**2. In addition to the above all, coaches, managers and others in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children in Brook CC :**

- Take responsibility for their professional reputation in the online environment, making sure they follow e-safety advice, adhere to privacy and safety settings and report any concerns in accordance with club and ECB policies and procedures
- Not ask for email addresses, mobile phone numbers or social networking profiles of junior members (less than 18 years of age) or search for junior members on social networking services/search engines without the prior consent of parents and in line with the club's policy on the use of information including emergency situations
- Members in a position of trust and/or responsibility should not develop an online relationship with a young player with the intention of meeting them offline to engage in sexual activity. Sexual exploitation, including grooming a child under the age of 16 for the purpose of meeting to engage in sexual activity, is a serious criminal Offence.
- Should a young person within your club request to become a named friend on your



Social Networking Page or request that you become a named friend on the young persons Social Networking Page you should decline if any of the below apply:

1. You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child.
2. You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club.
3. Your contact with the child is through Brook CC and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.

§ Not view, possess, make or distribute sexual abuse/indecent images of children. This is a serious criminal offence

**Guidance to coaches who have children that are members of the Brook CC where they coach:**

The issue has been raised that parents are becoming members of social networking sites that their children sign up to for security reasons in order to ensure the wellbeing of their own child by being able to view their child's site. This will give the parent access via their child's site to all children listed as friends of their child. It would not be appropriate for Brook CC to prevent a parent who is also a coach in his/her child's club from using this form of protection of their child's online activities.

Therefore in such cases the coach can:

1. Have players in the club on the site/he she is accessing providing the Brook CC under 18 year old club members on the site are listed as friends of his/her child.
2. The coach concerned does not have direct contact with those players through the social networking site;
3. The coach does not accept such players as friends on his/ her home site; and
4. The coach should inform the Club Welfare Officer of this arrangement.

**Coaches/managers and officials who are under 18**

Brook CC recognises social networking sites can be a useful tool for coaches, and officials within Brook CC to share information with other coaches, managers and officials. If, however, the coach, manager or official is under the age of 18 while they may be a colleague, the requirements of 1 and 2 above must be adhered to. However, for young people aged 16 or 17 it is the view of Brook that to restrict the ability to share professional information with them from other coaches, managers or officials may be detrimental in their professional development in their role within Brook CC.

Therefore such cases if the parent of a young person in a position of responsibility aged 16/17 and the young person themselves requests to have contact with an adult club officer or coach for the purposes of sharing professional information relevant to their role the club should:

1. Gain written consent of the parent/guardian and young person to have Such contact naming the individual adult and social networking site concerned;



2. The name adult must sign an agreement to keep the contact with the young person to the discussion of matters relevant to the young person's professional role in the club;
3. All such communications should be shared with an identified 3<sup>rd</sup> person (e.g. the young person's parent/guardian of CWO);and
4. If the young person or the adult is found to breach the above agreement action must be taken by the club to address the concern and/or the breach referred to the CWO or the statutory agencies if appropriate.

If you have any concern about the use of social networking sites please report as follows:

- Any concern: Club Welfare Officer
- Illegal sexual child abuse images should be reported to the Internet Watch Foundation (<http://www.iwf.org.uk>) and to the police.
- Reports about suspicious behaviour towards children and young people in an online environment should be made to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre ([www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)). Law enforcement agencies and the service provider may need to take urgent steps to locate the child and/or remove the content from the internet.
- Where potentially illegal material including sexual abuse or indecent images of children or activity is found or suspected on technology provided by, or where the club has access to, the evidence should be made secure and preserved. The police or the IWF can provide further advice on this when a report is made. In the case of reports about suspected illegal material including sexual abuse or indecent images of children held on personally owned devices by members the report should include where the suspected illegal material can be found e.g. a website address where possible.
- Potentially illegal material, including sexual abuse or indecent images, should not be circulated or distributed within the club. Those involved in making a report should be kept to an absolute minimum.

For further guidance of E-safety have a look at the following websites for some helpful tips: **BBC Stay Safe, Think you Know, Kids Smart**