Keeping children safe online
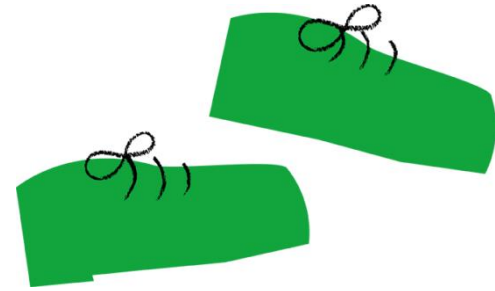
Common scenarios – best practice?

Sport online issues...

- High performing athletes – in the public eye so more of a target
- Negative impact on team dynamics – comments on performance or selection
- Clothing can be misinterpreted
- Organisational reputational risk v personal risk
- Online banter and bullying
- Parental behaviour

What do you think?

- **Is this safe practice?**

- **What are the risks?**

- **Are there any issues we should consider?**

- **What would make it safe?**

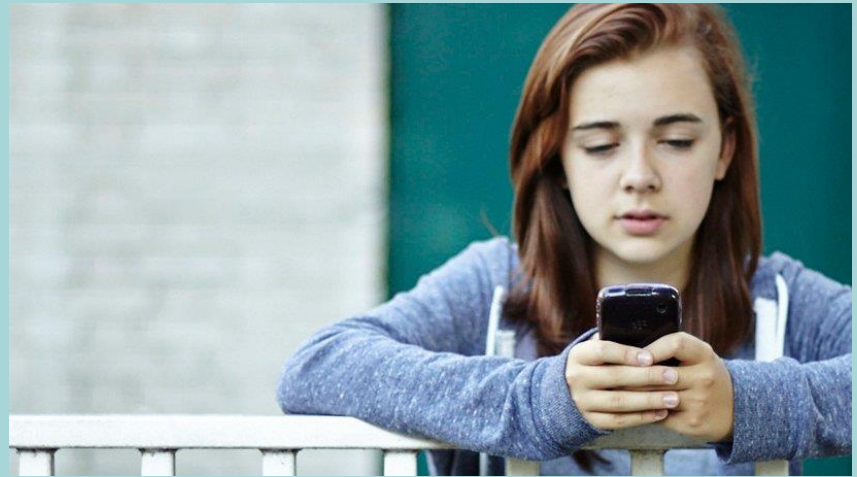# A young person asks you to be friends with them on social media.

Risks or issues

- contact outside of club (blurring boundaries and being responsible 24/7)
- club policies
- adult/child relationships and boundaries
- offending the child if they ask
- see inappropriate behaviour in adults/ or young people
- friends of friends

Making it safe

- clear purpose and objective to using social media
- Asking, 'Do we really need it?' as a part of organisations plan
- professional profiles
- clear codes of behaviour (as in offline activities)
- ways of reporting, responding to incidents , at least two people moderating
- risk assessing use of social media
- communication should be appropriate to club activities

There's been a change of venue and you need to send a text to let people know.
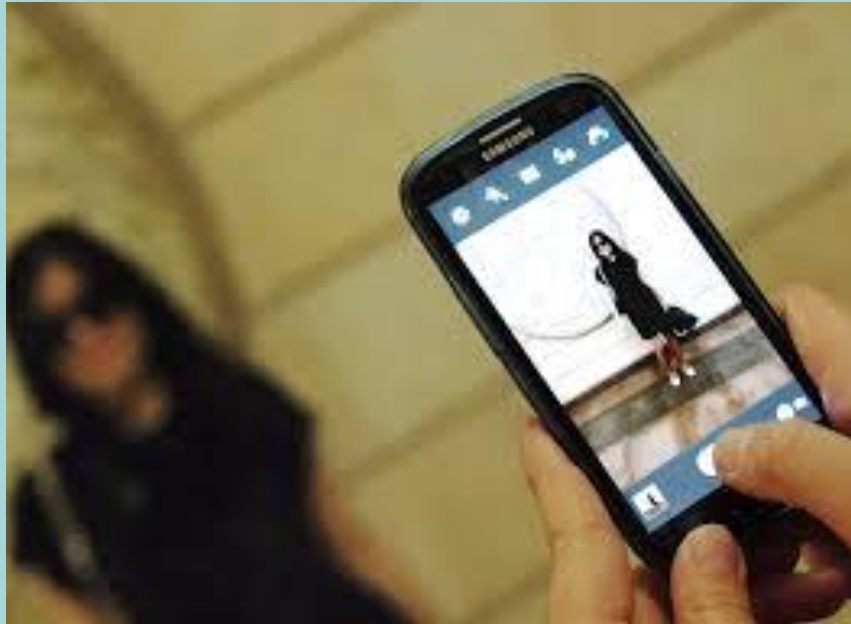
Risks or issues

- appropriate ways of communicating
- one on one contact with children
- mis-understanding communication
- personal details (phone number) given out
- mis use of phone

Making it safe

- group/club phone?
- parents included in comms or aware of processes
- group texts
- moderated/accessed by more than one person
- awareness of time of day, appropriateness etc
- make sure records are kept

Parents have been taking pictures at an event and posting them on them on Facebook.

Risks or issues

- body image/ consent of other young people
- vulnerable young people
- appropriate?
- how do you control in a public place?
- consent of young people and others

Making it safe
- codes of behaviour, communicated with parents
- importance of respect and consent from young people
 - generic consent forms
- club policies and practices, agreed with young people and parents
- encourage official photography and places to share this publicly
- education for young people about sharing online and agreement to respect each others wishes.

A young person tells you that another member is bullying them via instant messaging

Risks or issues

- welfare of the person being bullied/ and the bully
- potential illegal activity
- effect on rest of the team
- managing emotions

Making it safe

- anti – bullying codes/ behaviour
- education with young people – what to do, how to report
- clear reporting lines
- talking with young people about what they want to do (empowering them)
- deal with the issues/take it seriously

Good practice guidelines include:

- Find out more about the media
- Consider safeguarding from the outset
- Risk assess and plan
- Integrate online into your existing safeguarding policies and procedures
- Communicate this clearly
- Safe recruitment and selection for those managing your social media
- Clear reporting lines for concerns

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