Social Media, Texts and Emails Policy

**Social Media – Coaches/ Captains/ Volunteers**

While social media can open up opportunities in the world of cricket from making new friends and getting fixtures on the emergency fixture Facebook page, if used inappropriately if can get you into trouble with parents and the ECB. Therefore, it is essential to keep your personal pages and cricket pages separate. Under no circumstance should you befriend a child on social media, instead you should redirect them to the cricket club page and keep all contact professional. Remember you are representing Great Chart Cricket Club and you should ensure your communication conforms to the Safe Hands Policy and you should also ensure that anything you post will not be seen as inappropriate for children or cause any distress. If you do intend to post anything, such as individual details or a picture where you can identify the child, then you should get consent from the parent first.

**Texts and Emails – contacting under 18 players**

You should not text or email a player under the age of 18, instead you should make any arrangements via their parents or carers. However, for players over the age of 16, then an acceptable exception to this rule will be to send the information to the parents via text or email and then copy in the 16 or 17-year-old with the parents’ consent. This means that the 16 or 17-year-old receives the information directly, but the parents are still able to monitor the communication. Also, if you then receive any responses from the 16 or 17-year-old that you deem inappropriate then you should inform the parent or carer immediately. All contact with the over 16-year-old should be related to cricket matters such as coaching and matches, and nothing else.

**Social Media Do’s and Don’ts**

*Committee members/coaches do:*

* 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 text or email.
* Obtain consent from parents or carers before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs when an individual can be identified.

*Committee members/coaches don’t:*

* Send text messages to junior members – always make arrangements via their parents.
* Send private messages to children and young people via social media.
* Invite children or young people to be ‘friends’ on social media.
* Send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way.

If you have any concerns regarding social media, texts or emails, or if you suspect someone is using social media in an unsafe and inappropriate way, then you should report this to the Club Welfare Officer or the ECB safeguarding team via email [safeguarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ecb.co.uk)

If you believe that an offence has been committed or that a child has been put at risk of harm by someone’s use of social media, then you should report this to the police immediately.