Photographic Equipment/Mobile Phones/Websites and Social Networks

Use of Photographic/Video equipment

With the increased use of technology (video or photographic) in sport it is now important for clubs and organisations to adopt a policy in relation to the use of these images of their players. The use of these images on websites and publications has raised concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people.

Clubs/Organisations should consider the following when using images of young people:

- Establish a policy regarding filming and or photographing of young people.
- Ensure parental/guardian agreement for the use of images/photographs.
- Ensure consent/approval/accreditation is given prior to the event.
- Establish what type of images/photographs will be allowed to ensure suitability.
- Establish what information will accompany these photographs/images, ensure young people are not identified by name.
- Encourage the use of group photographs, identifying the club or organisation rather than the individual.

Mobile Phones:

Most children make use of a mobile phone. This has become an area where clubs need to establish a protocol to ensure their members will not be at risk.

Considerations:

- Establish a club/organisation protocol regarding the use of mobile phones (call/text) by young people and adults as a mode of communication regarding club matters for events or matches.
- Encourage the use of group texting among young people and parents to inform them of activities and matches.
- Avoid constant communication with individual young people – liaise with parents/guardians on matters.
- Have a policy regarding the use of phones (camera/video phones) in certain locations of the club(e.g. changing room/toilets)
- Ensure phones are not being used as a form of bullying.
- Establish a protocol in the event of offensive content being distributed or found on a club member's mobile phone.

Texting:

- Agree a policy identifying what age groups this will be a suitable form of communication regarding club or organisation activities.
- Clarify who will send the communication and what type of information will be sent.
- Keep messages brief and related to sport
- Allow sufficient time t get information to young people

- Agree suitable times to send communication to young people e.g. interference with school/suitable hours etc
- Do not enter into conversation with a young player(s)

Young people should be advised as follows:

- If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or the Club Children's Officer within your club /organisation.
- Be careful about who you give your number to and do not respond to unfamiliar numbers.
- Change your phone number in cases of bullying or harassment.
- Avoid using your phone in certain locations – inappropriate use of your camera phone may cause upset or offence to another person e.g. in the changing rooms.
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item so that you guard against theft.

Websites:

Use website to keep information regarding training times and matches.

Agree a policy regarding match reports/photographs – who submits the information and who will monitor the content.

Establish a policy regarding blogs and social interaction.

Social Networks (facebook, twitter etc.)

Most young people avail of social networking for communicating/networking and clubs/organisations should encourage all members to be responsible regarding club/organisation use of these networks.

This form of communication would not be suitable to discuss performances and or opposition or match officials.

- Clubs/organisations to agree a policy regarding interaction between adults and young people on social websites.
- Ensure all are aware of the responsibilities when communicating on social websites regarding club matters, members and club/organisation in general.

Useful websites

Office for the Minister for Children – www.omc.gov.ie

Sport NI – www.sportni.net

NSPCC – www.thecpsu.org.uk

BBC (article re: Facebook changes privacy options) – http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-14633427