Social Media Guidelines

Social networking is continuing to grow and these guidelines are designed to provide helpful, practical advice for all RCC players, coaches, members, officers, staff, volunteers and supporters on the effective use of social media.

Social media includes but is not limited to Facebook, Twitter, texting, Blackberry messenger, online gaming and emails. By following these simple guidelines the risks of inappropriate use can be reduced and social media can be safely used as a promotional tool and a means of communication for RCC.

If a situation should arise where you do become aware of any comment which may be deemed to have a negative connotation, either made by yourself or by any other person associated with RCC, please immediately contact –

Child protection issues- Christine Bellenger cbelle1997@gmail.com , Peter Brinsden on 07831 500036.
General issues– such as bringing RCC, RCC members or cricket into disrepute Carl Baker on 07768 325701.

Any report of the misuse of social media within the context of cricket will be investigated according to RCC'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.

All members and guests of RCC will:

Take responsibility for their own use of social media, making sure they use new technologies safely, responsibly and legally within the context of cricket.

Before they write anything remember that social media is public and anyone can take their comments, both positive and negative, and resend them, put them in a local or national paper, on a website or the TV. If they have any doubts about the suitability of what they are about to post onto a social media site then it should not be posted.

Never use language that is bullying or harasses others, is defamatory, obscene or abusive. This includes swearing or the use foul language or swearing/foul language punctuated with symbols. Never upload material which is libellous or defamatory to RCC, its teams, members, followers or the wider cricketing community.

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 RCC's and ECB's safeguarding policies and procedures.

Remember

RCC's competition may gain confidence if they read any comments made about poor form in training, poor form in previous matches, tiredness or belief that RCC are inferior to their teams.

Be careful what you post immediately after a match whether you've won or lost. In the heat of the moment you might not post appropriate comments.

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It's almost impossible to completely remove information from social networking sites even if you remove or delete it from the original site. There is no way of knowing if screenshots/munches have been taken or if it has been reposted. (With the growth of social media itself the terminology/jargon and apps for this type of screen save will also evolve).

Never give out any personal information or encourage a user to do so.

Correct any mistakes you make as quickly as possible.

Never link to any unsuitable or illegal content.

Don't be offensive or controversial.

Don't upload or share images that are obscene, illegal, show nudity or are violent.

The ECB suspended Azeem Rafiq, the captain of England under-19 team, for a month in 2010 for his use of inappropriate language on Twitter.

Dimitri Mascaren missed the start of the 2011 English cricket season as a punishment for his outburst on Twitter against the England selection chief.

Kevin Pietersen has been fined on two occasions for inappropriate comments on Twitter.

RCC as an Internet Provider

Where RCC provides network access and/or communication devices to members and guests users will protect passwords and personal network logins and they will 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 RCC officers and appointed volunteers will:

- Take responsibility for their professional reputation in the social media environment, making sure they follow e-safety advice, adhere to privacy and safety settings and report any concerns in accordance with RCC's and ECB's 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 the junior's parents/guardians and in line with the Club's policy on the use of information including in emergency situations.

- 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 and will be reported as such.

- Not view, possess, make or distribute sexual abuse/indecent images of children.

  This is a serious criminal offence and will be reported as such.