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, snapchat, tiktok, whatsapp, online gaming, linked-in, instagram, emails and many more platforms. 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 you suspect that someone is using social media in an unsafe or inappropriate manner, you should report their behaviour to your Club Safeguarding Officer, the County Safeguarding Officer, or the ECB Safeguarding team – email safeguarding@ecb.co.uk

If you believe that an offence has been committed, or that someone’s use of social media is placing a child is at risk of harm, inform the police immediately.

**Club Safeguarding Officers**- Bethan Eyres on 07870 230111, 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.

**Club Officials / Coaches / Managers**

* To have separate cricket-club related and personal pages; all contact with players should be through the former, and strictly in relation to training, coaching, matches and cricket related activity. You should also adjust the privacy settings for your personal account so that content is only visible to accepted ‘friends’. This will keep younger players safe from material that may be unsuitable for them, and will reduce the risk of your online interactions being viewed with suspicion.
* Not to accept ‘friend’ requests from junior players but to direct them to the cricket- club related page and keep all contact professional.
* To be mindful of any content posted online via the cricket-club related page - remember: You are representing the club Your communications should conform to ‘Safe Hands’ policy and guidance
* Ensure that nothing posted could cause personal distress or be seen as inappropriate for children. If you wouldn’t put it on the club notice board, it doesn’t belong on the club’s social media pages
* Obtain consent before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs where an individual can be identified. Remember the picture/no name guidance for under 18s

**Coaches / Managers / Clubs 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 and email.
* Obtain consent before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs where an individual can be identified.
* Remember the picture/no name guidance for under 18s Coaches / Managers / Clubs

**Coaches / Managers / Clubs DO NOT**

* Send text messages to juniors – make arrangements via their parents.
* Send private messages to children and young people via apps or social media.
* Invite or accept children and young people to become “friends”.
* Send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way.

**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.

**Adult players in Open Age teams**

* Be mindful of who may have access to material you share via social media, including Facebook, twitter and other platforms.

**Texts, apps and emails: contacting Under 18 players**

* The Children Act defines a person under 18 years as a child
* DO make arrangements for under 18s via their **parents or carers**; this includes text and email or Whats App messages etc. It is understood that in the case of over 16’s this may not be ideal for yourself or the parents. An acceptable exception to this rule is to text or email the parent and to copy in the 16 or 17 year old, with the parent’s prior consent. This means the parent is able to monitor communications, but the 16 or 17 year old receives the information directly. If you receive any responses that appear inappropriate they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer.
* DO NOT engage in individual text or email conversations with a 16 or 17 year old without their parent receiving the same messages from you.
* All contact with children should be in relation to coaching, matches and cricket-related activity

**Parents / Carers DO**

• Make sure you are aware of who your child has contact with online and via text

• Be aware of The ECB and the club’s expectations for coaches and social media

• Talk to your children about using social media.

• Provide your mobile number / email address if requested, so the club can contact you

Report any content you think may be improper or unlawful to the Internet Watch Foundation : https://www.iwf.org.uk

**Children and Young People**

* If someone isn’t your friend in real life, they aren’t your friend on the internet.
* Be careful when accepting friend requests. Sometimes people on the internet aren’t who they say they are. If you’re not 100% sure, don’t risk it.
* Remember to change your privacy settings so that only your friends can see information about you, your wall posts and your photos.
* If someone is sending you messages or texts that you are worried about, tell your parents, an adult you trust, your teacher or your club’s welfare officer.
* Remember that your coach is a professional, just like your teachers. They should not be your friend on Facebook, and should not be texting or messaging you.
* You can expect them to make arrangements for coaching and matches via your parents.
* Bullying can happen online too, and it’s known as cyber-bullying. If you, or someone you know, has had this happen to them you should tell an adult that you can trust.
* Don’t be afraid to tell someone if you have concerns.
* Have a look at the Think You Know page on the internet for more information about staying safe online: http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk

**Young people DO**

* Keep your photos and personal information private
* Conduct yourself in a respectful and courteous manner on social media as you would at home, in school or at cricket.
* Tell a professional or an adult you trust if you are worried or concerned about online behaviour or unwanted contact/ communication.

**Young people DO NOT**

* DO NOT send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way
* DO NOT accept any friend requests from people you don’t know or you feel uncomfortable accepting Putting things in plac
* DO NOT send or forward any indecent images of yourself, someone you know, or anyone you don't know, even if it seems to be done in fun - it is wrong and it is against the law

Report any indecent image or video footage to the Internet Watch Foundation - they can have these removed https://www.iwf.org.uk

**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.
* 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.

**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.