

## **ECB Guidance for Cricket Clubs on the use of Social Media, Texts and Email**

### Texts and emails: contacting Under 18 players

The Children Act defines a person under 18 years as a child

You should make arrangements for under 18s via their parents or carers; this includes text and email messages. 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. You should 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.

Social Media: Do's and Don'ts Coaches / Managers / Clubs

### **DO**

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

### **DO NOT**

Send text messages to juniors – make arrangements via their parents. Send private messages to children and young people via 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.

Adult players in Open Age teams - please be mindful of who may have access to material you share via social media, including Facebook, twitter and other platforms.

If you have concerns regarding social media, texts and emails If you suspect that someone is using social media in an unsafe or inappropriate manner, you should report their behaviour to your Club Welfare Officer, the County Welfare Officer, or the ECB Safeguarding team – email [safeguarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto: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.