



Stogumber Cricket Club

# Stogumber Cricket Club

## Safeguarding Guidance on the safe use of Social Media, Texts, and Emails

Creation Date: February 2018  
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## Introduction and Definition of a Child:

Stogumber Cricket Club is committed to ensuring all Children participating in cricket have a safe and positive experience.

This Guidance document aims to inform Stogumber Cricket Club Officials on their responsibilities whilst using social media, texting, or emailing for cricket related purposes, and specifically when there is potential for contact with children.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as **any person under the age of 18.**

## Social Media

Facebook and Twitter accounts are great for promoting the club and cricket in general and a good promotional tool that opens up a lot of opportunities, as well as being a fun way to unwind and stay in touch with friends.

Social media can be used safely as a promotional and communication tool for the club, as long as simple guidelines are followed. The points below provide advice for Stogumber Cricket Club officials, including captains, coaches and volunteers on the use of social media in relation to safeguarding children:

1. It is essential to keep club related pages and personal pages separate. All contact with youth team players should be through the former, and strictly in relation to training, coaching, matches or cricket related activity.
2. Privacy settings for your personal account should be adjusted 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 from being viewed with suspicion.
3. Although younger players may see you as a friend, and may request to be your 'friend' on a social media site, you should direct them to the cricket club related page and keep all contact professional. What they might consider innocent, friendly contact may not be seen as such by their parents, people at the club and others.
4. It is also important to be mindful of any content you post online via the club related page. Remember:
  - a. You are representing the Club;
  - b. Your communications should conform to the Safe Hands Policy and Guidance;



- c. Ensure that nothing you post could cause personal distress or be seen as inappropriate for children;
  - d. If you wouldn't put it on the club notice board it doesn't belong on the clubs social media pages;
  - e. You should have consent before posting any personal information online- this includes photographs where an individual can be identified;
  - f. Remember the PICTURE/NO NAME guidance for under 18s.
5. Remember not to send private messages to children/young people via social media.
  6. Guidance on private messages regarding cricket matters to groups, which include young children who play in adult teams, advises that parents and the club welfare officer should be aware and included into the conversation.
  7. If you are in charge of a social media page for your club, the Child Protection in Sport Unit (CPSU) has provided further guidance.

## Text and Email

You should make arrangements for any person under the age of 18 via their parents or carers; this includes text and email messages.

1. 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.
2. If you receive any responses from that appear inappropriate they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer.
3. You should not engage in individual texts or email conversations with a 16/17 year old with out their parents receiving the same message from you.
4. All contact with Children should be in relation to coaching, matches and cricket related activities.

## Contact Details

If you have concerns regarding social media, texts or emails, report them to:

Club Welfare Officer: **Gemma Rexworthy** – [grex2004@gmail.com](mailto:grex2004@gmail.com)

County Welfare Officer: **Ray Hancock** - [raysomcricket@randj.org.uk](mailto:raysomcricket@randj.org.uk)

ECB Safeguarding Team: [safeguarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ecb.co.uk)