

## **Photographic Equipment/ Mobile Phones/ Websites and Social Networks**

### **Use of Photographic / Video equipment**

With the increased use of technology (video or photographic) in rugby it is now important for clubs 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 should consider the following when using images of young players:**

Establish a policy regarding filming and or photographing of players.

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 players are not identified by name.

Encourage the use of group photographs, identifying the club 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 protocol regarding the use of mobile phones (calls/text) by players and adults as a mode of communication regarding club matters for events or matches.

Encourage the use of group texting among players and parents to inform them of activities and matches.

Avoid constant communication with individual players – liaise with parents/ guardian 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 rugby activities of the club. Clarify who will send the communication and what type of information will be sent.

Keep messages brief and related to rugby.

Allow sufficient time to get information to players and agree suitable times to send communication to players e.g. interference with school/ suitable hours etc.

Don't enter into a conversation with a player or players.

### **Age grade players 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 Child Welfare Officer within the club.

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 to encourage club members to be responsible regarding club activities and players.

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

Clubs to agree a policy regarding interaction between adults and age grade players on social web sites.

Ensure all are aware of the responsibilities when communicating on social websites regarding club matters; members and rugby in general.

Do not engage in communication with any person you have not met in person even if they refer to matches/ games you may have been involved in.