



## Communications and Social Media

### **Clubs should consider the following when using any images of young players:**

- Ensure parental/ guardian agreement for the use of images/ photographs – see sample Parental Consent agreement in IRFU registration form
- Issue consent/approval/accreditation is given prior to a major event for professional photographers
- Establish what information will accompany photographs/ images, try to use group photographs without identifying Age-Grade Players by name. Use group photographs, identifying the club rather than the individual. Use only images/photographs that are suitable

### **Age-Grade players should be advised:**

- 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 Club Welfare Officer within the club
- Be careful about who you give your number to and do not respond to unfamiliar numbers
- Consider changing your phone number in cases of abuse, bullying or harassment, discuss this with your parents
- Avoid using your phone in certain locations e.g. changing rooms - inappropriate use of a camera or phone may cause upset or offence to another person
- Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item to guard against theft

### **Club Website...**

- Use a club website to post information regarding training times, fixtures and events.
- Agree a policy regarding match reports / photographs – who submits the information and who will monitor the content on the website?
- Have a club agreement regarding blogs and social interaction through the club website.

For more information on Social Media, see page 57 of Sport Ireland's [Code of Ethics](#)

#### **Irish Rugby Football Union**

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## Social Networks

- Clubs should encourage members to be responsible regarding club activities and players and establish a guideline policy for same
- This form of communication may not be suitable to discuss matches, performances, the opposition and match officials
- Age-Grade players should be advised to communicate only with persons they know directly through such sites and coaches should not be "friends" with age-grade players that they are coaching

## Mobile Phones:

Most children have the use of a mobile phone. This can be a good safety tool for keeping in contact with Age-Grade Players but as phones become 'pocket-computers' users need to be mindful of the risks that can also be associated with their use:

- Seek parental permission for communications (calls/text/photographs) by players and coaches//volunteers as a method of communication regarding club events
- Encourage the use of group texting among players and parents to inform them of activities
- Avoid constant communication with individual Age-Grade Players by mobile phone or email or social media forums – communication should be for the purpose of team administration
- Avoid prolonged non-rugby related text conversations
- Allow sufficient time to get information to players/parents/guardians and agree suitable times to send messages so as to not interfere with family life, work or school
- Encourage responsible use of phones (camera/video) in certain locations of the club (e.g. changing rooms/toilets)

## Resources:

[http://www.internetsafety.ie/website/ois/oisweb.nsf/page/04BB9C6373FF3C58802574D60056E59F/\\$file/Leaflet%20Low%20Res.pdf](http://www.internetsafety.ie/website/ois/oisweb.nsf/page/04BB9C6373FF3C58802574D60056E59F/$file/Leaflet%20Low%20Res.pdf)

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/online-safety#social-networking-whatyou-need-to-know>

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