

Newton Cricket Club

Social Media Policy



Newton Cricket Club have guidelines on the use of social media to help cricketers and cricket supporters make the most of social media.

The Club also adheres to the policy on social media set out in the ECB (England and Wales Cricket Board) "Safe Hands" safeguarding document. What follows is based upon these policies.

Children/Young People/Adults at Risk

The internet is a great place to learn and to have fun with your friends, and the best way to have fun is to make sure that you stay safe. You should think about the points below whenever you use the internet, or speak to people online or by text:

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, you should tell your parents, an adult you trust, your teacher or your club's safeguarding 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 that you trust if you are worried or concerned about online behaviour or unwanted contact/ communication.

Young people DO NOT

- Send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way
- Accept any friend requests from people you don't know or you feel uncomfortable accepting.

Parents/Carers

This generation is growing up with the internet as part of their everyday lives, and that's a good thing. It's a great place for them to learn, to have fun and to chat with their friends. Of course, it's important to make sure that they're safe while they do it.

Remember: it is against Facebook's rules for your child to have an account if they're under thirteen years old. This is to prevent them from being exposed to potentially inappropriate content. You will find all you need to know about keeping young teens safe on Facebook on their official safety page for parents: <https://www.facebook.com/safety/parents>

There are some key tips which can significantly help to reduce the risks involved with social media and the internet. Make sure that your family computer is in a main living area, and the screen is positioned so that you can see what's going on. Google have some more advice on their family safety pages: <http://www.google.co.uk/familysafety/advice.html>

Most importantly of all, it's important that your child feels they can talk to someone if they are being bullied online, or if they've been exposed to something that makes them upset or uncomfortable.

You may also want to have a look at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's guide to the internet for parents and carers: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Provide the club with your email and/or telephone number to receive texts and emails regarding your child's matches and training, if the club requests this.

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

Six questions to ask before you or your children post or share

1. Would saying this be acceptable if I was attending a cricket match in person? Remember it just isn't cricket to show a lack of respect.
2. Would I want my boss, my family or my coach to see this? "Views expressed are my own" won't stop them being embarrassed or change the opinions they form.
3. Would a newspaper publish this? If the answer is no, it probably breaks libel or defamation laws.
4. Am I 100% certain this is acceptable? If in doubt, leave it out.
5. Before sharing or re-tweeting, would I write this myself and do I endorse it? If the answer is no, don't pass it on. By re-tweeting or sharing, you might as well be posting it yourself.
6. How would I feel if someone wrote this about me? If you wouldn't like it, don't post it.

Keep your login details secure. **You are responsible for what is posted from your profile whether you wrote it or not.**

PRINCIPLES

Below are our principles for dealing with inappropriate or malicious communications related to or associated with cricket for the Club.

Insulting, offensive, obscene, injurious or false content can be dangerous and harmful to people's wellbeing and reputation as well as bringing the Club into disrepute.

We will not tolerate any malicious communications, harassment or discrimination through social media.

Do not use social media to make malicious, insulting, offensive, obscene or false statements regarding players, coaches, officials, volunteers or spectators.

This applies regardless of whether

- (i) You are posting yourself or sharing someone else's post.
- (ii) The individual is tagged in the post or not
- (iii) The communication is by word, photograph, video or any other form.
- (iv) The post is anonymous or not.

What does this mean in practice for players' and parents own social networking sites?

You should not post abusive, defamatory or obscene remarks within the context of cricket or the Club on your "wall", "status" or similar or allow others to do so through "feeds" or similar methods. For example, this would include abusive comments on other players, the Club officials, umpires or opponents, as well as harassment of other players. This will lead to disciplinary procedures being instigated.