## Communication and social media

The aim of communication and Social Media Policy is to convey messages and information safely and securely to intended recipients and to give guidance on the safe use of social media without exposing children to risk of harm. It also ensures that children have the means to communicate with adults without needing to seek help from other or use technology. The procedure also specifies the safe use of social media sites for young people and what is considered acceptable interaction between adults and children.

## General Considerations

Communication is valuable tool, and the types of communication available today are wide and varied. Adults need to be aware of the effect and power of communication between children and adults. Good communication tools ensure interaction with children is in an open environment, and individual conversations take place in public surroundings. Individual communications are open to exploitation and can cross the boundary between a person in authority and a young person. Therefore, it is important for clubs to consider the effective means of communication between members ensuring that everyone has access to the chosen method, reflecting that several ways of getting messages and information to people may be the more effective.

## Communication with people under 18

Adults should be aware of communication directly with young people and all such contact should be open and honest. Any individual communication should be at the request of the child or be planned and expected i.e., club news, regular training session updates. Information can be conveyed through various means – for general information this can be a mass communication sent to groups of children or for more specific individual information this can be copied openly to another responsible person.

The important point to remember is that any individual communication should be instigated by the child and/or in response to their needs.

Whilst we recognise the benefits of technology as a means to send easy, cost-effective mass communications we also need to recognise that these forms of contact may be open *to* misinterpretation and exploitation, in some cases used to cross personal boundaries and cause harm to young people. Within clubs there is a need to encourage responsible and secure use of communication by adults and young people.

## Types of Communication available

Clubs have a variety of communication options available, and they should consider the most appropriate methods that cater for young and old members.

Such options are:

Club house/pool noticeboards

Post

Email

Phone/mobile phone including the use of text

Internet and websites including the interactions on social media sites

Further Information Available here: [Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance](https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-10/safeguarding-guidance_0.pdf)

## Photography and Media images

CI try to ensure only those who have a right to take images of young people do so and thus protect the young people who are the focus of attention. CI does not seek to prevent adults or parents from taking pictures or video within the procedure.

Parental/guardian permission is required for young people appear in individual or group photographs and/ or in video footage taken for training, competition and/or promotional purposes. CI have adopted a policy where at national events and activities it is accepted that by being a member young people may be filmed or photographed. Clubs should ensure that young people are aware of the policy within the club – permission should be sought at membership registration.

It is the responsibility of CI and/or the club to ensure that any person wishing to take images of young people is registered to do so.

The procedure contains the following:

Announcement/Notice to be made at Events

Registration/Accreditation process for photographers at CI events/training

Taking appropriate photographs

Use of images for CI, club and media

Videoing/filming for training/competition purposes

Safe storage and/or disposal of photographic images and video

Further Information Available here: [Sport Ireland Safeguarding Guidance](https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/media/document/2021-10/safeguarding-guidance_0.pdf)