



Nomansland Cricket Club – Social Media Policy.

Introduction:

This Policy provides guidance on how Nomansland Cricket Club uses the internet and Social Media platforms and procedures for doing so. It also outlines how we expect our staff, players, volunteers, and young person's / children who are members/players to behave and communicate online.

Aims:

The aims of our online safety policy are:

- To protect all children and young people involved within our Organisation and who make use of technology (such as mobile phones, games consoles & internet) while in our care.
- To provide all staff, players and volunteers with Policy and procedure information regarding online safety and inform them how to respond to any incidents.
- To ensure our organisation is operating in line with our values and within the law regarding how we behave online and positively portray our club, cricket, and mitigate and reduce any potential Safeguarding concerns or incidents.

Understanding the online world:

- Understand the safety aspects – including what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour for staff, players, young persons, and children – when using websites, social media platforms, apps and all other forms of digital communication.
- Be aware that it doesn't matter what device is being used for digital interaction, but the same safety aspects apply whether it is a computer, mobile phone, tablet device or games console.

- When using Social Media platforms (including WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram) ensure we adhere to current relevant legislation and good practice guidelines.
- Regularly review existing Safeguarding Policies & procedures to ensure that online Safeguarding issues are fully integrated, including Making sure concerns of abuse or disclosures that may take place online are written into our reporting procedures. Incorporating online bullying “cyberbullying” into our forthcoming anti-bullying Policy.
- Provide the required appropriate training to nominated Club staff who manage and are responsible for our online presence.

Managing our online presence online:

Our online presence through Club Website, social media platforms or any subsequent ticketing/marketing digital platform will adhere to the following guidelines:

- All social media accounts will be password-protected, and at least 3 members of staff will have access to account/password and the account.
- Account details / logins / passwords – will be held securely in a to be created electronic file only accessible to 3 x member of The Executive Committee.
- Each Club account will be monitored by a designated person, who will have been appointed by the club committee. (At this time Club Players Whatsapp account – Monitored by Club Captain (Greg COLE), supported by Data Controller / Treasurer (Nick JUPP) & Club Safeguarding Officer (Dan HUGHES). To be formed Youth Player Parent Whatsapp Account – Monitored by Club Safeguarding Officer (Dan HUGHES), supported by Club Data Controller (Nick JUPP).
- Each account designated Person(s) will seek any such advice from The Club Safeguarding Lead / Designated Safeguarding leads should they require any advice or become aware of anything of concern.
- The Designated Person will remove any inappropriate posts by children, players, parents, or staff, explaining why and informing anyone who may be affected (as well as the parents of any children involved). Furthermore, any such instances are to also be brought to the attention of The Club Safeguarding Lead.
- Account, page, and event settings will be set to “private” so that only invited club members/parents can see their content.
- Identifying details such as a child’s home address, school name or telephone number shouldn’t be posted on social media platforms.
- Any posts or correspondence will be consistent with our aims and values, ensuring that Nomansland Cricket Club is portrayed in a positive, ethical & appropriate manner at all times.
- We’ll make sure children and young people are aware of who manages our social media accounts and who to contact if they have any concerns about the running of the account.

- Parents / Guardians will be asked to give their approval for us to communicate with their Young People/children through social media, or by any other means of communication. (Young people aged below 14 years of age, will not be added to ANY Social Media accounts and young people aged between 14 to 15 years of age will have their parents consulted with regards to whether their parents wish to be included (as well) to any such club Social Media Platforms, i.e. Club Players WhatsApp group.
- Moving forward use of The ECB Play Cricket site is to be explored with regards to being the platform to aid all player and parent communication.
- Parents / Guardians will need to give permission for photographs or videos of their child / young person to be posted on social media (Also see Club`s Photography & Video Policy).
- All our accounts and email addressed will be appropriate and fit for purpose.
- Any external club email communication will be from allocated designated fit for purpose assigned club email addresses i.e. dan@nomanslandcricketclub.co.uk
- Staff are further advised to seek support and advice from Club Executive Committee members with regards to any external communication that they may intend to send, if they are unsure or feel any such communication maybe contentious or potentially not be in line with this policy or any Club values as previously outlined.

What we expect of staff & Volunteers:

- All staff / players should be aware of this policy and behave in accordance with it.
- Staff/Players/Young People should seek the advice and support of the designated Club Safeguarding Lead if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social medial platforms.
- Staff should not “friend” or “follow” children or young people from personal accounts on Social Media.
- Staff should make sure any content posted is accurate and appropriate, as young people may follow them on social media.
- Staff should not communicate with young people via personal accounts or private messages.
- Rather than communication with parents through personal social media accounts, staff should choose a more formal means of communication, such as face-to-face, in a club originated email, website or via a designated Club/Organisation Social Medial Platform. i.e. Club Youth Players Parents Whatsapp Group.
- In the event of any such club emails being sent to any young person(s) at least one other member of staff should be copied into any such email(s).
- Staff should avoid communicating with children/young people via email / social media platforms outside of normal office hours and within appropriate hours of the day.

- Emails and Social Media Posts should be signed off / concluded in a professional manner, avoiding the use of any inappropriate emojis or symbols such as “kisses” (“X”s).
- Any disclosures of abuse reported through social media should be dealt with in the same way as a face-to-face disclosure, according to our reporting procedures.
- Smartphone users should respect the private lives of others and not take or distribute pictures of other people if it could invade their privacy.
- Staff / Players & Young People must not engage in “Sexting” or sending pictures to anyone that are obscene, indecent, or menacing.

What we expect of young persons and youth members:

- Young People / Children should be aware of this online safety policy and agree to its terms.
- We as a Club expect Children / Young People’s behaviour online to be consistent with the guidelines within this Policy and positive values associated to this club and cricket.

Using mobile phones or other digital technology to communicate:

When using mobile telephones (or any other digital devices) to communicate by voice, video, or text (including texting, email & instant messaging), we’ll take the following precautions to ensure young people’s safety:

- Staff will avoid having Children’s or young people’s personal mobile numbers and will instead seek contact through a parent/guardian or via designated club social communal group platform.
- We’ll seek parental / guardian permission on each occasion we need to contact children or young people directly; the purpose for each contact will be clearly identified, explained, and agreed.
- Consideration will be given to a method of accountability such as copies of texts / messages / emails also being sent to the Club’s Safeguarding Officer & Parents / Guardian.
- Club Player & Parent Whatsapp groups will be used to communicate upcoming events, timings, fixtures, kit requirements and associated logistics etc..and not used for any inappropriate communication/chat or posts.
- If a young person misinterprets any communication and tries to engage a staff member in conversation, the staff member will take the following steps; end the conversation or stop replying, suggest discussing the subject further at the next fixture or event, if concerned about the child or young person, provide contact details for Club Safeguarding Officer or appropriate agency.

Using mobile phones during Cricket Sporting Activities:

So that all children/young Persons can enjoy and actively take part in cricket sports activities, we discourage the use of mobile telephones or any such digital device during cricket activities. As part of this policy, we will:

- Make children aware of how and who to contact if there is an emergency or a change to previously agreed arrangements.
- Inform parents/guardians of any appropriate times they can contact children who are away on fixtures, trips, tours or camps etc..
- Advise parents that it may not be possible to contact children/young people during cricket activities and provide club points of contact, who will be contactable in the event of any emergency or urgent issue.
- Explain to children/young people how using mobile phones / devices during any cricket activities has an impact on their safe awareness of their environment, and their level of participation and achievement.

Use of other digital services and programmes:

The principles in this policy apply no matter which current or future technology is used, including computers, laptops, tablets, web-enabled games consoles and smart TVs – and whether an app, programme or website is used.

If any digital devices are used as part of activities within the organisation.

- We expect children and young people to adhere to the guidelines surrounding online use and behaviour as set out in this policy.
- We'll establish appropriate restrictions, more commonly known as "parental controls", on any device provided to prevent misuse or harm.

Nomansland Cricket Club as a responsible organisation commit to implementing this policy and addressing any concerns quickly within these guidelines.

***This Policy was reviewed & endorsed by The Club Executive Committee and adopted by Nomansland Cricket Club on XX/06/2022.**

Other source of information / reference to assist Staff, members and Parents/Guardians:

<https://nspcc.org.uk/prevening-abuse/keeping-children-safe>

NSPCC / 02 Helpline 0808 800 5002 – www.o2.co.uk/help/nspcc/child-protection

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) – www.ceop.police.uk

Childnet – www.childnet.com

The UK Safer Internet Centre – www.saferinternet.org.uk