

WEYMOUTH JUNIOR NETBALL CLUB

Updated April 2017

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Weymouth Junior Netball Club (WJNC) has adapted England Netball guidelines to form their communication policy.

England Netball Good Practice Guide to Electronic Communication with Young People

Advice, guidance & recommendations for coaches, volunteers, umpires and designated officers.

For the purpose of this guidance note:

1. The term coach is applied to all adults working with young people in netball including volunteers.
2. The term electronic communication includes contact with young people via email, text messaging, social networking sites and instant messaging systems (eg MSN).

TECHNOLOGY

As technology develops, the internet and its range of services can be accessed through various devices including mobile phones, computers and games consoles. Although the internet has many positive uses, it provides the key method for distribution of indecent images of children.

Furthermore, social networking sites, chat rooms and instant messaging systems are increasingly being used by online predators to sexually groom children and young people. In addition electronic communication is being used more and more by young people as a means of bullying their peers. All adults working with young people in netball are asked to adhere to the following good practice guidelines which form part of the EN Safeguarding and Protecting Young People in Netball Policy.

England Netball will investigate any coach who is not adhering to good practice in communication with young people.

GENERAL GOOD PRACTICE

It is inappropriate for adult coaches to communicate on a one to one basis with players under the age of 18 years;

- By text message
- Through social network sites
- By e-mail
- By instant messaging

WJNC do not support any one-one communication by any electronic method

England Netball suggests that all electronic communication by the above methods should include a copy to a third person, e.g. copy to safeguarding officer and/or the parent. Coaches should also limit all electronic communication to netball related methods. It is advisable to always send a group message rather than single messages to one player.

WJNC will send all correspondence directly to the parent/guardian and there will be no direct electronic communication with any member under the age of 18.

All staff, volunteers, parents and members should always behave responsibly and respectfully when online or texting. They should not post or discuss unfavourable comments about coaches, players, any helper or volunteer, parent or club/s.

Mobile phones should be turned off during a netball session except in the case where a phone is used as a club contact number or for emergencies.

TEXT MESSAGES

Text messaging between club players and any adult involved in the club is not permitted. If your child reports receiving text messages from any adult member of the club please inform the safeguarding officer.

EMAILS

WJNC will only send emails to parents/carers of under 18. We will no longer communicate via email with any U18's and any emails received from U18 will be redirected to the parent/carer.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Coaches should NOT have players under the age of 18 as their friends on social networking sites when the primary reason for the relationship is netball. Clubs using Facebook must only accept members of the club as their online contacts on the Club Facebook(or other social networking site)page. This must be stated on the page and the page must be set up for that reason. Where clubs operate a Facebook (or other social networking site) page links

may be made from the young persons page to the club page but additional personal links between the pages of adults and young people must not be created. It is important that the sites privacy settings are set, ensuring that an outside person may not be able to make contact with a young person by first gaining access via the clubs social networking site.

Young members must be reminded to set their privacy settings and not accept requests either from people unknown to them or to other adults involved in netball. Coaches are reminded that ALL social networking websites are restricted to people aged 13 years and over, this restriction must be adhered to. Coaches are advised to consider carefully what they post as some comments can be seen by friends of friends. This also applies to comments left on other peoples pages and the sharing of photographs. Consider your position as a role model in this area.

INSTANT MESSAGING SERVICES

MSN, Yahoo and other instant messaging systems should not be used by adults to communicate with young players under any circumstances. Reporting concerns in the event of a player showing a coach a text message, image or email that is considered to be inappropriate for a child to have, the coach must inform the appropriate safeguarding officer, either at club or EN national level.

SHOULD ANY CHILD/PARENT HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT ANY TEXT OR EMAIL CONTENT THEY SHOULD CONTACT THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER FOR THE CLUB OR SPEAK TO A COACH ON A SATURDAY MORNING

CONTACT DETAILS

CHAIRPERSON – KELLY BROWNE 07970 537740

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER – ZOE FOWLER 07967388314