



NWCU Social Media Guidance for Player / Parents / Guardians

Social Media / Network Pages

- NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should not 'friend' or 'follow' NWCU age grade players on social media.
- Messages left to or from NWCU age grade players on an NWCU social media / network sites should be written on an open page (e.g. A Facebook 'Wall') and not in a private message or by using 'chat' [one-on-one].
- An NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should not network or communicate with an NWCU age grade players via closed [one-on-one] chats e.g. Facebook messenger, WhatsApp, etc,. This should be done only through 'Group Chat.'
- Any events or activities run by the NWCU that are organised or publicised on an NWCU social media or network page should be a closed event so as non-members cannot access the event without suitable permission by the site administrators.
- If emails are required to be sent to NWCU age grade players via an NWCU social media or network site they will be sent to at least one other Coach / Manager / Volunteer. (This can be done by 'bcc' if necessary.)
- Parents/guardians will be asked to give their approval for NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers to communicate with their NWCU age grade children via social networking sites, or by any other means of internet communications (e.g. email).
- Parental permission is required before pictures/videos of NWCU age grade players are posted online.
- Any disclosures of abuses reported through a social networking site will be dealt with following the NWCU and Cricket Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy.

Use of Mobile Phones

- NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers should only have an NWCU age grade player's mobile number if the nature of their involvement requires them to phone or text.
- Parental permission should be sought if, in their role, NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers will be contacting children or young people via mobile phone.
- Texts should be openly shared between NWCU age grade players and their parents.
- If an NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers has an NWCU age grade player's mobile phone number it should only be used for the purposes it has been given and will not be shared with anyone.

Texting – Communication not Conversation!

- NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers Texts should only be used for the purposes of reminding NWCU age grade players about events which are forthcoming.
- If texting turns into a conversation, communications should be ended.
- NWCU Coaches / Managers / Volunteers may suggest discussing the subject further at the next event or, if they are concerned about an NWCU age grade player, they will follow the Cricket Ireland Child Safeguarding Policy.



- Use of Smart Phones
- Smart phones should be used safely and responsibly. Pictures can be very powerful and stir up strong emotions. Smart phone users should respect the private lives of others and not take or distribute pictures of other people without their permission.
- No NWCU age grade player should send any pictures that are obscene, indecent, or menacing. You should also be sensitive about other people's gender identity, sexual identity, racial heritage, religion, or personal background. Insensitivity may be construed as bullying activity. It is a criminal offence to take, make, permit to be taken, distribute, show, or possess an indecent or sexually explicit image of a child under 18.

Use of Mobile phones during activities

- During any NWCU activity the named leader is the primary point of communication and is to be contacted if there is an emergency or change to previously agreed arrangements.
- The usage of mobiles phones including text messaging or playing games cannot be a distraction from a safe awareness of the environment or be allowed to interfere with full participation in the cricket activity. Your Lead Coach / Manager / Volunteer will advise the spectrum / limitations of player mobile phone use with your NWCU age grade player group prior to the session / activity / game / Tour.
- When on training camps or overnight activities there will be a stated preferred time period when parents may make contact, if they wish. Parents should be advised that contact outside of this time may not be possible due to activities.
- The use of phones while away can worsen rather than alleviate homesickness (particularly for younger players). In this context it can be good to remember that 'no news is good news.