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	Electronic Communication with Young People Policy	

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy provides guidance on the procedures that will support and underpin the use of social media and electronic communication with young people within Netball Ireland (NI). It is important that all members, staff, volunteers, coaches and officials, or anyone working on behalf of NI (including via affiliated clubs) are aware of this policy and agree to the following terms.

For the purpose of all NI policy, ‘young people/person’ is defined as any person under 18 years of age.

2.0 PURPOSE

To protect all young people when electronically communicating with any person working in a NI capacity by providing guidance regarding appropriate electronic communications with young people.

3.0 SCOPE

This policy relates to communications via mobile phone (text messages, messaging apps), emails, social media, and any other forms of virtual communication that may arise, and is applicable to all NI members (including committee, clubs, coaches, team management) and volunteers working in a NI capacity.

4.0 ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES


It is the responsibility of each relevant person (with respect to 3.0) to read, understand, and comply with this policy.


4.1 The Child Protection Officer (CPO) will ensure this policy is available to all relevant persons via the NI website.

4.2 Coaches and team management (TM) personnel for:

4.2.1 National squads must be identified to the CPO and will be required to complete a NI Child Safeguarding Declaration (NI-3002) – to be returned to the CPO/CCO by 30th September every year.

4.2.2 Affiliated clubs must be identified by the Club Children’s Officer (CCO) and will be required to complete a NI Child Safeguarding Declaration – to be returned to the CCO by 30th September every year.

Prepared by: Mary Kelly, Child Protection Officer	Date: 10/05/2021
Approved by:  Lynette Wall, President	Date: 03/06/2021

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5.0 PROCEDURE

- Best practice for communications with young people is for communications to be sent to their parents/guardians. The use of group texts and messaging app groups are permitted when communicating with the parents/guardians of young people.
- In instances where it is necessary to communicate directly with young people, prior consent must be gained from parents/guardians. For young people participating in NI national squads please see National Player Contract Under 18 (NI-3008).
- Parents/guardians of young people who are in squad/club text groups should also be included in each relevant text group.
- Text/messaging app groups that include young people and/or parents/guardians, and coaches/TM: best practise for such communications is to limit information shared to netball related information only, and to refrain from sharing personalised observations or feedback in the group.
- All clubs affiliated to NI must obtain documented consent from parents/guardians to communicate with relevant young person. NI recommend that clubs include in their own registration process parental/guardian consent to communicate directly with their child.
- Do not engage in communications with young people via personal social media accounts.
- Do not use electronic communication to correspond with a singular young person.

6.0 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version 01: NI Child Protection Policy 2015 (Extract)

Version 02: Electronic Communication with Young People Policy

7.0 ABBREVIATIONS & DEFINITIONS

NI Netball Ireland
CPO Child Protection Officer
CCO Club Children's Officer

Young people/person: any person under 18 years of age.

8.0 REFERENCES

NI-3002 Child Safeguarding Declaration
NI-3008 National Player Contract Under 18