

# **Ramsbottom Cricket Club**

## **Junior Foundation**

### **Social Media/Texting/Email Policy**

Club Officials' / Coaches' / Managers' Facebook and Twitter accounts are great for promoting club and cricket in general, as well as being a fun way to unwind and stay in touch with friends: it is essential to keep these two worlds separate.

Club Officials / Coaches / Managers will have separate cricket-club related and personal pages; all contact with players should be through the former, and strictly in relation to training, coaching, matches and cricket related activity.

Club Officials / Coaches / Managers will also adjust the privacy settings for their personal account so that content is only visible to accepted 'friends'. This will keep younger players safe from material that may be unsuitable for them, and will reduce the risk of your online interactions from being viewed with suspicion.

Although younger players may see Club Officials / Coaches / Managers as a friend, and may request to be their 'friend' on a social media site, they will direct them to the cricket- club related page and keep all contact professional. What they might consider innocent, friendly contact may not be seen as such by their parents, people at the club and others.

Club Officials / Coaches / Managers should also important to be mindful of any content posted online via the cricket-club related page and conform to 'Safe Hands' policy and guidance.

Club Officials / Coaches / Managers will ensure that nothing they post could cause personal distress or be seen as inappropriate for children. (If you wouldn't put it on the club notice board, it doesn't belong on the club's social media pages)

Consent will be sought before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs where an individual can be identified.

Contacting Under 18 players (The Children Act defines a person under 18 years as a child) Club Officials / Coaches / Managers will make arrangements for under 18s via their parents or carers; this includes text and email messages.

It is understood that in the case of over 16's this may not be ideal for Club Officials / Coaches / Managers or the parents. An acceptable exception to this rule is to text or email the parent and to copy in the 16 or 17 year old, with the parent's prior consent. This means the parent is able to monitor communications, but the 16 or 17 year old receives the information directly.

If Club Officials / Coaches / Managers receive any responses from that appear inappropriate they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer. Club Officials / Coaches / Managers should not engage in individual text or email conversations with a 16 or 17 year old without their parent receiving the same messages.

All contact with children should be in relation to coaching, matches and cricket-related activity.

Social Media: Do's and Don'ts

Coaches / Managers / Clubs DO

- Have separate social media accounts for cricket-club related and personal use.

- Keep your photos and personal information private.
- Apply the Codes of Conduct and appropriate professionalism to your behaviour online, by text and email.
- Obtain consent before posting any personal information online – this includes photographs where an individual can be identified. Remember the picture/no name guidance for under 18s Coaches / Managers / Clubs

#### DO NOT

- Send text messages to juniors – make arrangements via their parents.
- Send private messages to children and young people via social media.
- Invite or accept children and young people to become “friends”.
- Send inappropriate text messages or post messages on social media that are offensive, nasty or derogatory in any way.
- Adult players in Open Age teams Please be mindful of who may have access to material you share via social media, including Facebook, twitter and other platforms.

If Club Officials / Coaches / Managers have concerns regarding social media, texts and emails If Club Officials / Coaches / Managers suspect that someone is using social media in an unsafe or inappropriate manner, they will report their behaviour to your Club Welfare Officer, the County Welfare Officer, or the ECB Safeguarding team – email [safeguarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@ecb.co.uk) If Club Officials / Coaches / Managers believe that an offence has been committed, or that someone’s use of social media is placing a child is at risk of harm, the police will be informed immediately.