

Social media and Communicating with Children Policy

This policy provides guidance on the procedures that will support and underpin the use of social media and communicating with children in our athletics club

Purpose: To protect all children and young people attending the club and who make use of technology (such as mobile phones, hand held devices and the internet) to interact with the club. To provide staff and volunteers with policy and procedure information regarding communicating with children.

DSD AC operates a number of social media sites for providing information and communicating with the membership in a general way.

- Club Website
- Club Facebook Page
- Club Twitter Account

These tools will only ever be used for enabling communication with the membership as a whole. The sites will not be used for communicating with individual underage members.

Coaches and leaders should never place themselves in a compromising position by texting or communicating via social media sites with children. All such communications should be sent via approved club channels to the parents or guardians of the athlete

The following Rules apply to DSD Coaches and officials when communicating with juvenile athletes:

- Do use a club group text or email system for communicating with parents/guardians of athletes.
- Do not communicate individually by text or email with juvenile athletes.
- Do not engage in communications with underage athletes via personal social network sites.
- Always use official club group text or social media sites to communicate with juvenile athletes.
- All club Facebook pages must be a group, organization and community or sports page.
- A personal page should not be used by a club to communicate with children.
- All group, organization and community or sports Facebook restrict members to share information in an open space and does not require members to friend each other in order to access information. They simply 'like' the page to follow posts.

For further information on setting up your social media page please see page 22-24 in the Code of Ethics & Good Practice