Naas LTC – Child Safeguarding Policy

Social Media Policy

Introduction

Social media provides unique opportunities for tennis clubs to engage, connect, and develop unique relationships with people in a creative and dynamic medium where users are active participants. Information about an event or campaign messages can be dissipated virally amongst supporters within online communities. However, we must also be aware that these sites can become a negative forum for complaining, gossiping, or bullying.

Principles for use of Social Media by Naas LTC

- All Naas LTC Social Media pages are password protected and the passwords are known to at least three members of the Club / Committee.

- There is a designated social media supervisor, appointed by the Club Childrens Officers, who has access to all Naas LTC social media.

- Any inappropriate posts by or about children/young people will be removed by the designated supervisor. The reason will be explained to the person who posted the content to ensure the behaviour is not repeated.

- Any use of personal addresses or telephone numbers should be avoided, to remove the potential for items to be copied and shared.

- All content posted should be consistent with the aims of Naas LTC, and if in doubt advice should be sought before posting.

Use of Social Media by Tennis Leaders

- Leaders should not 'friend' or follow junior members on social media. (Junior members may 'follow' leaders on social media so leaders should make sure any content they post is appropriate.)

- Messages left to or from junior members on Naas LTC social 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).
- Leaders should not network with junior members via closed (one-on-one) chats e.g. Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp etc. This should be done only through 'Group Chat'.
- Any Naas LTC events or activities for Juniors that are publicised on the site should be closed events so that non-members cannot access them without permission from the organisers.
- Any emails sent to junior members via a social media site must be copied to at least one other Leader (using bcc if necessary).
- Leaders should avoid communicating with junior members via email late at night.
- In signing off a post or email Leaders should not do so in a way that could be misconstrued or misinterpreted by the recipient. e.g. 'Luv X'.'xoxoxo', Simply sign your name.
- Permission should be sought from parents/guardians before communicating with junior members via social networking sites or by any other means of internet communications. e.g. email
- Permission should be sought from parents/guardians before posting any photos or videos of junior members online.
- Any disclosures of abuse reported through a social networking site will be dealt with according to the Naas LTC reporting procedures.

General Principles for the use of Social Media by Naas LTC members.

If you are representing the Club in an official capacity, it is important that your posts convey the same positive spirit that the club would instil in all of its communications. Be respectful of all individuals, races, religions, and cultures. How you conduct yourself online not only reflects on you – it also reflects directly on the Club.

When disagreeing with the opinions of others online, keep it appropriate and polite. If you find yourself in a situation that might become antagonistic, do not get defensive or disengage from the conversation abruptly. It is also important not to respond in the heat of the moment in a way you may regret later. Feel free to seek advice or disengage from the dialogue in a polite manner that reflects well on theClub.

Potential Problems

With all emerging technologies there is also the potential for misuse. Risks associated with user interactive services include: cyber bullying; grooming and potential abuse by online predators; identity theft; and exposure to inappropriate content such as self-harm, racism, sexting (which is the creation or uploading of inappropriate material), and adult pornography.

The capabilities of social networking services may increase the potential for sexual exploitation of children and young people. There have been a number of well reported cases where adults have used social networking and user interactive services as a means of grooming children and young people for sexual abuse.

Online grooming techniques include:

- gathering personal details, such as age, name, address ,mobile number, name of school, and photographs.

- promising meetings with sports idols or celebrities or offers of merchandise.

- offering cheap tickets to sporting or music events.

- offering material gifts including electronic games, music, or software.

- paying young people to appear naked and perform sexual acts.

- bullying and intimidating behaviour, such as threatening to expose the child or young person by contacting their parents/guardians to inform them of their child's communications, or postings on a social networking site, and/or saying they know where the child lives, plays sport, or goes to school.

- asking sexually themed questions, such as 'Do you have a boyfriend?' or 'Are you a virgin?'

- asking to meet children and young people offline.

- sending sexually themed images to a child depicting adult content or the abuse of other children.

- masquerading as a minor or assuming a false identity on a social networking site to deceive a child.

- using school or hobby sites (including sports) to gather information about a child's interests likes and dislikes.

Most social networking sites set a child's webpage/profile to private by default to reduce the risk of personal information being shared in a public area of the site.

Rules to Remember

If someone has their own personal profile on a social media website, they should make sure that others cannot access any contents, media, or information from that profile which:

• a) they are not happy for others to have access to.

• b) which would undermine their position as a coach/volunteer representing their club.

As a basic rule, if you are not happy with others seeing particular comments, media, or information, then simply do not post these onto a public forum site.

When using social media sites, the following should be considered:

- change your privacy setting on the profile so that only people you have accepted as friends can see your comments. Individuals should lock down their page to non-friends.
- review who is on your 'friends list' on your personal profile. In most situations you should not accept 'friends requests' if you do not actually know the person(s) concerned.
- ensure personal blogs have clear disclaimers that the views expressed are personal and not representative of the club.

- ensure that information published on social media sites complies with the club's Child Protection Policy.
- beware of how your actions could be captured via images, posts, or comments online as these will reflect on the club.
- respond to online bullying - what is said online must be treated as if said in real time.