



# 'Think before you Post'

March 2013

## Good Practice Guidelines for the use of Social Networking Sites for Hockey Coaches

England Hockey Board (EHB) recognises the use of social networking sites to allow people to engage, connect and disseminate information virally to a network of individuals. Whilst these technologies provide exciting opportunities, if they are misused they can have negative consequences. It is therefore important for anyone who has a position of trust over young people within hockey to give careful consideration to their use of social networking sites.

The following is some guidelines to consider when using social networking sites:

### DO

- Communicate using your hockey club or companies profile to engage with young people.
- Consider the age of people you interact with on social networking sites
- Use age appropriate communication (the minimum age for most sites is usually 13 years).
- Involve parents/ person with parental responsibility in communication with young people.
- Be responsible! Remember everyone can see your profile. Protect yourself, your privacy, and confidential information.
- Be clear to users what the site is and isn't to be used for.
- Be positive about promoting hockey, and relevant activities and events.
- Create a sense of community and involvement to the Hockey Family.
- Post images that reflect positive aspects of people's involvement in hockey.
- Know what to do if you have a concern about a young person.
- Always act in accordance with EHB's Proud to Protect Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and good practice

### DON'T

- Use your personal social networking profile to engage with young people in hockey.
- Accept friend or follower requests on your personal account if:
  - You are in a position of trust in respect of that young person,
  - You hold a position of trust in the club,
  - Your contact with the young person is through the club and consent from the parent/guardian has not been given.
- Post things you don't want everyone seeing. Remember it is a public conversation and what you publish will be widely available for a long time.
- Use your social networking site as a medium by which to abuse or criticise another club or association member, EHB or another club or association.
- Use inappropriate language or humour, or link to any unsuitable content.
- Use photos of young people without gaining written consent from the player and parents/legal guardians or that individually identify them.

**REPORTING CONCERNS** - For further information or any questions or queries please contact EHB on 01628 897500, [childwelfare@englandhockey.co.uk](mailto:childwelfare@englandhockey.co.uk) or [www.englandhockey.co.uk/safe](http://www.englandhockey.co.uk/safe)  
Where a child or young person may be in immediate danger, always dial 999 for police assistance.