

Social Networking Guidelines

For Coaches



Guidance for coaches, teachers and other officers in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children in an ASA club

1. ASA members in a position of trust and/or responsibility (as defined in Wavepower 2009- 2011 section 4 page 76) should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they hold such a position in respect of that individual young person.
2. Should a young person in your club request to become a named friend on your Social Networking Page or request that you become a named friend on the young persons Social Networking Page you should decline if any of the below apply: You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child. You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club. Your contact with the child is through an ASA club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.
3. The social network site should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise ASA members or ASA clubs and to do so would be in breach of ASA Law and Regulations.
4. The publishing of a photograph or video footage on a social networking site is governed by the same requirements as any other media - see the ASA Photography Policy in Wavepower Section 2 page 60.

Guidance to coaches who have children that swim in the club where they coach.

The issue has been raised that parents are becoming members of social networking sites that their children sign up to for security reasons in order to ensure the wellbeing of their own child by being able to view their child's site. This will give the parent access via their child's site to all children listed as friends of their child. It would not be appropriate for the ASA to prevent a parent who is also a coach in his/her child's club from using this form of protection for their child's online activities.

Therefore, in such cases the coach can:

- Have swimmers in the club on the site he / she is accessing providing the ASA under 18 year old club members on the site are listed as friends of his / her child; The coach concerned does not

have direct contact with those swimmers through the social networking site;

- The coach does not accept such swimmers as friends on his / her home site; and the coach should inform the Club Welfare Officer of this arrangement.

Coaches/teachers/officials who are under 18.

The ASA recognise social networking sites can be a useful tool for teachers, coaches and officials within ASA clubs to share information with other teachers, coaches or officials.

For young people aged 16 or 17 it is the view of the ASA that to restrict the ability to share professional information with them from other coaches, teachers or officials may be detrimental in their professional development in their role in the ASA.

Therefore in such cases if the parent of a young person in a position of responsibility aged 16/17 and the young person themselves requests to have contact with an adult club officer or coach for the purposes of sharing professional information relevant to their role the club should: Gain written consent of the parent/guardian and young person to have such contact naming the individual adult and social networking site concerned; The named adult must sign an agreement to keep the contact with the young person to the discussion of matters relevant to the young person's professional role in the club;

All such communications should be shared with an identified 3rd person (e.g. the young person's parent/guardian or club welfare officer); and If the young person or the adult is found to breach the above agreement action must be taken by the club to address the concern and/or the breach referred to the ASA or the statutory agencies if appropriate.