



Online Safety Policy

Purpose

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safe and responsible use of online communications, and social media within Newcastle Staffs Volleyball Club. This policy safeguards children, young people and adults, while ensuring that online tools are used positively to promote volleyball and the values of our club.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All club members, including juniors and their parents/carers
- Coaches, volunteers, and committee members
- Any contractors or photographers working for the club
- The club's official online presence and communications

Risks

Online communication can present safeguarding risks, including:

- Personal information being used to identify and locate a child offline.
- Grooming via social media or messaging platforms.
- Exposure to inappropriate, harmful or illegal content.
- Promotion or glorification of dangerous or unhealthy behaviours (e.g., drug use, excessive drinking).

Principles for Safe Online Communication

1. Transparency & Accountability

- No one-to-one private online communication between adults and young people. Group messaging via Spond should be used wherever possible, with parents/carers copied in.
- All communications must be volleyball-related and professional in tone.

2. Consent & Permissions

- Parental consent is required before communicating with a young person.
- Parents and players must be informed about how online communications will be used.

3. Behaviour Expectations

- All members must behave respectfully and responsibly online.
- Posting negative, disrespectful or abusive comments about the club, its members, coaches or officials is prohibited.
- Using online platforms to bully, harass or criticise is a breach of the club's Code of Conduct and may lead to disciplinary action.

4. Social Media Guidelines

- Adults in positions of trust must not have young people as friends/fans/followers on personal accounts if the primary relationship is volleyball related.
- Club social media accounts must only connect with verified club members and use appropriate privacy settings.
- Young members should be encouraged to set strict privacy settings and avoid accepting requests from unknown individuals.

5. Age Restrictions

- All members must follow age limits for social networking sites (minimum age 13 for most platforms).

Education & Training

Staff and volunteers who manage the club's online presence will receive guidance or training on safe use of social media and digital communication.

Reporting Concerns

Any online safeguarding concerns must be reported immediately to the Club Safeguarding Officer via safeguarding@nsvc.co.uk