



Guidance to parents of members under the age of 18 on the use of electronic communication and social networking.

Taken from Wavepower 2016-19

There have been occasions where parents of members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse an organisation, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and/or members in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has, in some cases, led to the person who is the subject of the abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.

Parents are expected to behave responsibly as a spectator at all training sessions, events and activities, and treat members, coaches, committee members and parents of other members of any aquatics organisation, be that your child's organisation or not, with due respect in order to meet the ASA's commitment to equality and diversity.

Parents should be aware that posting any content on a social networking site that breaches the above requirements may breach the parent's Code of Conduct.

Parents who work at the same organisation attended by their children:

Many parents are becoming 'friends' with their children on social networking profile for security reasons, to ensure the wellbeing of their own child by being able to view their child's profile. This may then give the parent access to the profiles of other children listed as 'friends' of their child. It would not be appropriate for the ASA to prevent a parent who is also an employee at the organisation where his/her child is a member from using this form of protection for their child's online activities.

Therefore, in such cases:

- The parent concerned should not have direct contact with members through the social networking site.
- Where the parent has access to their child's social networking site (i.e. knows the user name and password) they must not contact any other children under the pretence of being their child.
- The parent should not accept their child's friends as friends on their own social networking site.
- The parent should inform the welfare officer of this arrangement.

Further information The CPSU Briefing Document Social networking services, social media and sport: Guidelines for safeguarding children and young people (2009) gives more in depth guidance on

social networking sites and can be accessed via the Child Protection in Sport Unit website at www.cpsu.org.uk.

What to do if you have concerns:

As a user of a social networking site, whether you are a child or an adult, you may at some time have a concern about what you are seeing or being told about by another user. Concerns may range from negative or abusive comments and cyber bullying, to suspected grooming for sexual abuse.

The ASA has drawn up a list of agencies that you can contact, anonymously if you wish, where you can raise such concerns:

- The National Crime Agency: CEOP Command (formerly the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) at www.ceop.gov.uk or by pressing the CEOP button on Facebook or on the ASA Child Power website.
- Swimline ASA/NSPCC helpline 0808 100 4001.
- If you are under 18 use the 'Your Chance to Talk' form on the Child Power section of the ASA website.
- ChildLine 0800 1111 or www.childline.org.uk.
- www.childnet.org.uk which is an NSPCC support service specifically for young people.
- The local police or Children's Services – their number appears in the phone book, or dial 101.
- The NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000 or www.nspcc.org.uk.
- The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) www.iwf.org.uk. The IWF was established to provide a UK internet hotline which can be anonymous for the general public and IT professionals to report criminal online content in a secure and confidential way. They work in partnership with other agencies to minimise the availability of this content, specifically:

Child sexual abuse images hosted anywhere in the world.

Criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK.

Incitement to racial hatred content hosted in the UK.

Non-photographic child sexual abuse images hosted in the UK.