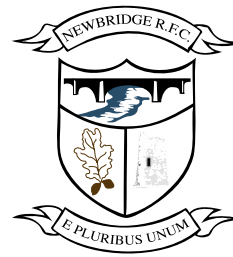


Newbridge Rugby Club

Social Media Policy



Communication, Images and Social Networks

With the increased use of technology (video, photographs, social media) in rugby it is important that Newbridge Rugby Club ensures that any images on websites and other publications are not contrary to the welfare of its minis and youth players.

Concerns about the risks posed directly and indirectly to children and young people as a result of misuse of social media are obvious to all. The issue is not to ban such technologies but rather to assess and limit the risk of harmful behaviour that may arise due to their use.

Photographs: Newbridge Rugby Club will endeavor to:

- Ensure that parental/ guardian agreement for the use of images/ photographs is sought. This can be done by using the “Parental Consent agreement” in Appendix One of the IRFU Safeguarding Policy at the time of registration.
- Consent/approval/accreditation is given prior to a major event for professional photographers.
- Establish what information will accompany photographs/ images.
- Try to use group photographs without identifying Age-Grade Players by name.

- Use group photographs, identifying the club rather than the individual.
- Use only images/photographs that are suitable.

Mobile Phones: Newbridge Rugby Club will endeavor to:

- Ensure that parental permission is sought for communications (calls, text, whatsapp groups) by players and coaches/volunteers as a method of communication regarding club events.
- Encourage the use of **group** texting among players and parents to inform them of activities.
- Ensure that prolonged non-rugby related text conversations do not occur.
- Ensure that information is imparted to players, parents/guardians in sufficient time and that suitable times to send messages are agreed so as to not interfere with family life, work or school.
- Ensure the responsible use of phones (camera/video) by banning their use in certain locations of the club (e.g. changing rooms/toilets).

Age Grade Players are Advised to:

- Tell a parent, coach or the Club Welfare Officer within the club if they receive an offensive photo, email or message.
- That they should not reply to offensive messages but should save it and make a note of times and dates.
- Be careful about who they give their number to and not to respond to unfamiliar numbers.
- Consider changing their phone number if they are recipients of abuse, bullying or harassment and to discuss this option with their parents.
- Treat their phone as they would any other valuable item to guard against theft.