

TTW SAFE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

Document History

Version	Summary of Changes	Document Status	Date
1.0		Live	23 rd November 2019
1.1	Amended text and language used	Live	2 nd March 2021
1.2	Reviewed document and added document history. Also added acceptance and adoption text at end of document.	Live	1 st November 2021

Monitoring and Review

The policy will be annually monitored and a full policy review will take place every three years. A policy review may also be conducted in response to any of the following occurrences:

- Changes in legislation or guidance
- Changes in governance of the sport
- Changes in the nature or size of Table Tennis Wales
- A procedural review taking place following a significant case

Table Tennis Wales takes its responsibility in terms of providing advice and guidelines in respect of Safeguarding our Young People and Adults very seriously.

In recent years, the use of social media networking sites, like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, Tumblr, Instagram, WhatsApp and Periscope, have become immensely popular with both adults and young people alike. Used safely they provide an incredible tool to enable us all to promote our sport, publicise events and make contact with our members whether that be at Club, League, County or National level. In addition, sites like YouTube allow us to be able to upload clips and videos, to share moments from our sport, which can reach tens of thousands of people at the click of a button.

Unfortunately, whilst the use of these, and other types of social media, for example, text messaging, offer exciting opportunities, they bring with them dangers and the ability for abuse, if not used safely.

This Policy is intended to be used by both young people and adults alike, in order to use social media safely and in a manner that makes the most of the advantages. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the E-Safety Policy. **The Children Act defines a person under the age of 18 as a child.**

What is Social Media?

- **Facebook:** A popular free social networking website that allows registered users to create profiles, upload photos and videos, send messages and keep in touch with friends, family and colleagues.
- **Twitter:** An online social networking site that enables users to send and read short 140-character messages, called 'tweets'. Registered users can read and post tweets, but those who are unregistered can only read them.
- **YouTube:** A video sharing website which provides a forum for people to connect, inform and inspire others across the globe and acts as a platform for original content creators.
- **Snapchat:** A mobile messaging application, used to share photos, videos, text, and drawings. It's free to download the app and free to send messages using it. It has become hugely popular in a very short space of time, especially with young people.
- **Instagram:** A fun and quirky way to share your life with friends, through a series of pictures. Snap a photo with your mobile phone, then choose a filter to transform the image into a memory to keep around forever.
- **Tumblr:** Lets you share anything, post texts, photos, quotes, links, music and videos from your browser, phone, desktop, email or wherever you happen to be. It is a cross between a social networking site and a blog.
- **WhatsApp:** A free, multiplatform messaging app that lets you make video and voice call, send text messages, and more, all with just a Wi-Fi connection.
- **Periscope:** Is Twitter's new video streaming platform that is taking the social media world by storm.

For more information about current popular sites used by children please follow this link:

<https://www.net-aware.org.uk>

Coaches, Responsible Adults, Umpires, Referees, Club and League Officers

You should make arrangements for under 18s via their parents or carers: this includes text and email or WhatsApp Messages, etc.

It is understood that in the case of over 16's this may not be ideal for yourself or the parents. An acceptable exception to this rule is to text or email the parent and to copy in the 16 and 17-year-old, with the parent's prior consent. This means the parent is able to monitor communications, but the 16- or 17-year-old receives the information directly. If you receive any responses that appear inappropriate, they should be brought to the attention of the parent or carer.

You should not engage in individual text or email conversations with a 16- or 17-year-old, without their parent receiving the same messages from you.

All contact with children, should be in relation to coaching, matches and table tennis related activity.

Indeed, this will apply to anyone who is in a position of responsibility and trust in respect of Young People and Adults at Risk in table tennis.

- Do not accept any personal friend requests from any young person involved in table tennis.
- Do not send out any personal friend requests to any young people involved in table tennis.
- Your personal social networking sites should never be used to contact young people within the sport.
- Be aware of your own personal responsibility and do not use social media sites, to criticise Table Tennis Wales or any other individual involved in the sport, whether as an employee or a volunteer.

Table Tennis Wales does recognise, however, that the use of social media is a very effective way to communicate, promote or contact people and members, if used in an appropriate manner. We would recommend that Clubs and Leagues, etc, set up their own social media sites, controlled and monitored by the Club or League to ensure that all posts are checked and that photos have parental consent to be posted, as per the Table Tennis Wales' Photographic Policy.

There are some instances that parents are also coaches or hold a position of responsibility and trust, in respect of young people in our sport. We acknowledge that in their role as parents/carers they may feel it necessary to monitor their child's activities in respect of social media, which would give them access to their child's lists of friends and contacts. Under these circumstances we would encourage the parent/carer to:

- Never have direct contact on their home site, with a young person involved in table tennis.
- Not accept friend requests from young people in table tennis on their home sites, including those from young officials, sports leaders or officers.
- Ensure that the Club/League Welfare Officer is aware of the situation.

Members under the age of 18

- **Young Officials, Sports Leaders:** Keep your personal sites separate and when contacting other coaches, officials or officers on table tennis matters, always use the official social media sites and do not attempt to contact them through their personal sites. Similarly, when making contact in your official capacity with other young people, ensure that you always use the official social media sites. Also, follow the guidelines below for all young people.
- **Table Tennis Wales members under the age of 18:**
 1. Do not send friend requests or invite coaches, umpires, officers or any adult who may be involved with you in table tennis, to join your personal social media accounts.
 2. Be careful what you post on social media, always remembering that it may be shared across the internet, whether it be comments, photos or videos – this may not always be in the way that you wanted or intended it to be shared.

3. If you are talking to people in social media sites, be sure that you know who they are and always follow the advice given by www.ceop.gov.uk, to use the internet safely.
4. When posting on social media, be aware that you are not being hurtful or making comments that could cause upset, that you may regret sharing later.
5. Do not post photos of other members on your social media site, without their and their parents/carers permission, if they are under the age of 18.

Some sites which may be of help:

- www.thinkuknow.co.uk the main government website, with advice on how to keep children safe online.
- www.ceop.police.uk the government agency dedicated to eradicating the online abuse of children, any concerns can be reported on through this site.
- www.iwf.org.uk (Internet Watch Foundation), works to remove any illegal material from the internet, again there is a reporting mechanism where you can report any explicit material.
- www.nspcc.org.uk has lots of advice on keeping children safe online.

If you have any concerns or want some advice, please contact the Table Tennis Wales National Safeguarding Officer. The contact details for the National Safeguarding Officer are on the Table Tennis Wales website www.tabletennis.wales or you can email: safeguarding@tabletennis.wales

Important:

Please copy and paste the following text into an email, and send it to: development@tabletennis.wales

I confirm that I have read, understand and fully adopt the TTW Safe Use of Social Media policy.