

Stourbridge Volleyball

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE POLICY

Communication is important between coaches, managers, team members and parents. All adult members and volunteers in the Club are asked to adhere to the following good practice guidelines when communicating with U18 children and young people.

We do not believe it is appropriate for an adult to communicate on a 121 basis with a young person by:

- Text
- Messenger/Whatsapp or other instant messaging
- Through social networking sites
- By email

The Club expects:

- If communication is urgent or necessary the adult must copy to a third party - preferably the parent and/or Safeguarding officer.
- All e:communication must be limited to volleyball related matters only.
- That a group message will be sent to all relevant junior players rather than messages to individuals.
- We will use the parent/carers email address for all communications of those under 18, unless we have consent for communication between adult and young person.
- Everyone connected with the Club is expected to behave responsibly and appropriately when online or texting in relation to the Club. They should not post or discuss individuals or make inappropriate or adverse comments about coaches, players, volunteers, members or parents.

Text and Whatsapp

The Club recognises the speed and effectiveness of instant messaging. However our guidelines are that these should not be used between adults and young people. Where they are agreed, group messages only should be sent and the Safeguarding lead should be copied in. The adult must ensure that no other adults are connected to 'chats' if this would reveal the contact details of individual young people.

Emails

The Club does not wish to hold email addresses of those under 18. We ask for parent/carer email addresses only. Where permission has been given (by the parent/carer) to contact their child directly, emails should be group emails and the parents bcc (blind) copied into the communication.

We will always attempt to send group emails with bcc (blind) circulation so that email addresses are not disclosed.

Social networks

Coaches/adult members/committee members and the safeguarding lead are not expected to have young people as friends/followers on personal social networking sites when the basis for their relationship is via volleyball.

Parents/Carers of young people are advised to ensure they set their privacy settings and do not accept friend requests from adults they know through volleyball. Account holders must, by law, be over 13 years' of age.

Instant messaging

'Chat' messaging services are not an acceptable form of communication between Club adults and children/young people.

Reporting Concerns

If you have any concerns about communications between Club adults and children, please speak to the Chair, Safeguarding lead, or any committee member. If a young person in the Club receives a communication the parent/carer considers inappropriate from an adult, they should immediately inform the Safeguarding lead.