

6. Social Media

In all their contacts and communications with the members of Irish Squash, leaders must be seen to be open and transparent. This is the case whether communications are by traditional means or by electronic means. **NB: Leaders must not communicate with children or young people via leader's personal social networking profiles, email accounts, or chat rooms.**

Irish Squash communicates with its members via its Website, Twitter and Facebook platforms. These channels can only be edited through the Irish Squash central office. Members should not post images of Junior Irish Squash events or training sessions on Instagram without permission from Irish Squash and the players and their parents.

For a Club using/publishing a Social Networking the following principles should be applied:

- The page/profile must be password-protected, and the password must be held by at least three leaders of the organisation.
- The site should be monitored by a designated supervisor. This person should have access to the login details of the site. This supervisor will be appointed by the Designated Person/Safeguarding Panel in Charge of Child Protection.
- Any inappropriate posts by children/young people or leaders should be removed by the designated supervisor. Reasons should then be explained to the person who posted the content. Where possible sites should be monitored before content is put up.
- The site should be kept 'Private' i.e. only permitted members or 'friends' can see what is posted on the site.
- The use of personal addresses and telephone numbers etc., should be avoided as, while sites are 'private', there is the potential for items to be copied and shared.
- Content of any postings should be consistent with the aims of the organisation. In cases of doubt leaders should seek advice.

For Leaders Using a Social Networking Site

- Leaders should not communicate with children and young people via social media unless for a specific event eg use of Whats App at an international event to communicate details of event. In such case permission will have been sought beforehand from parents and parents would also be included in the Whats App message.
- Leaders should remember that Children or young people may 'follow' leaders on social media so leaders should make sure any content they post is appropriate
- No emails should be sent to any child or young person by any adult.
- Leaders should only communicate with junior players through their parents.

- Parental and child's permission is required before pictures or videos of children or young people are posted online.
- Any disclosures of abuses reported through a social networking site must be dealt with according to your reporting procedures.