



Electronic communications policy

The Forest of Dean Ac places great emphasis upon the safeguarding of its athletes. In order to adhere to best practice and meet our duty of care, the following policy, (which has been written to in conjunction with guidance from the Child Protection in Sport Unit), must be adhered to:

There is growing concern being expressed about what is and what is not permissible in the area of communication between adults and children and young people in sport. Understandably, with the rapid development of mobile phones, text messaging, e-mail and other forms of electronic communication, these methods of communicating have become a feature within the lives of young people.

1 Contacting children and young people:

Ideally contact by coaches would be primarily on a face to face basis. Additional communication relating to events, training and other information should be directed to the child or young person's parents or legal guardian.

Coach communication:

- 2 Coaches should not be e-mailing children and young people directly as individuals, but may do so as part of a disclosed list (having received prior permission to disclose in group e-mail) where they are disseminating information in relation to training or competitions. The CPSU (Child Protection in Sport Unit), encourage the use by clubs of disclosed lists for sending club information via a designated and suitably trained adult (because of their position this person should also have been subject to appropriate selection and vetting processes).
- 3 **Group e-mails** should also give individuals the opportunity to have their contact details removed from the list by including a statement such as: "If you wish to be removed from this e-mail list please contact the administrator".
- 4 Upon joining The Forest of Dean AC, new members must be asked for permission to be included in group emails / communications.
- 5 If permission not given, then their name must be removed from email group lists or from tables of results compiled by The Forest of Dean AC or other athletic organisations that our junior athletes compete under, i.e Glos AAA
- 6 Whilst we recognise that we live in free society, and that communication between individuals regardless of age is part of daily life, we do not consider it good practice for coaches to text or e mail individual children or young people at any time, on any matter.
- 7 **Race results:** The personal data of young people must not be placed upon social media, Face book or on emails without the permission of parents.
- 8 If this policy is contravened by any member, athlete, trustee or committee member, then disciplinary procedure is to be implemented, in accordance with the Forest of Dean Athletic Club Disciplinary Policy