

2.2 Social Media Policy

[SportCheer NI]



Guidance for Coaches, Judges, helpers/volunteers and other officers in a position of trust and responsibility in respect of children in a SCNI member club

- 1) SCNI members (coaches within the club, volunteers and junior coaches) in a position of trust and/or responsibility should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they hold such a position in respect of that individual young person.
- 2) Should a young person in your club request to become a named friend on your Social Networking Page or request that you become a named friend on the young person's Social Networking Page you should decline if any of the below apply:
 - a) You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child.
 - b) You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the club.
 - c) Your contact with the child is through a SCNI club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.
- 3) Social networking sites should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise SCNI or SCNI clubs and to do so would be in breach of SCNI Standards of Conduct.
- 4) The publishing of a photograph or video footage on a social networking site is governed by the same requirements as any other media – see the SCNI Photography Policy.
- 5) SCNI recognise that social networking sites can be a useful tool for judges, coaches and officials within SCNI clubs to share information with other judges, coaches or officials. If, however, the judge, coach or official is under the age of 18 while they may be a colleague, the requirements of 1 and 2 above must be adhered to.

Guidance from SCNI to Cheerleaders under the age of 18

1. Do not ask your coach, judge, helper/volunteer or club official to be your social networking site friend – they will refuse as that would breach good practice
2. Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at www.ceop.gov.uk for some useful tips.
3. Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
4. Always remember that anything you say including photos, pictures and video clips posted on your site may be shared with people other than those for whom it was intended.
5. Never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be: Hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on; or Used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.
6. Do not put pictures of other club members on the site within the club setting. If you do wish to upload such a picture you must get advice and consent of your parent, the other young person and their parent and a club officer before even considering uploading such a photo. This will not prevent you having pictures of your cheerleading friends on your site taken outside of the sporting arena but it is good advice to always ensure they and their parents are happy with any picture you have of them on your site.
7. Always be aware that social networking sites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word. They are bound by the same laws and rules. Such technology is instant and this

allows you as the user to react in the 'heat of the moment', where in the past you would have been required to write a letter which would have taken time and allowed for you to think again before sending. So never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing or say to the individual concerned as to do so may not only breach SCNI Policy but also the law.