



ERGS RUGBY

IRFU Guidance on Social Media



With the increased use of technology (video, photographs, social media) in rugby it is important for clubs to adopt a policy in relation to the use of photographic images of Age-Grade Players. The issue is not to ban such technologies but rather to assess and limit the risk of harmful behaviour that may arise due to their use. ERGS Rugby Club will follow the IRFU guidelines but also strictly follow the Schools' Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

Mobile Phones

- Contact should be made directly with parents as opposed to with the player.
- Encourage the use of group texting among players and the coach may set up a group amongst parents to inform them of activities.
- Avoid non-rugby related text conversations.
- Allow sufficient time to get information to players/parents/guardians and agree suitable times to send messages so as to not interfere with family life or work.
- We should all encourage responsible use of phones (camera/video) in certain locations of the club (e.g. changing rooms/toilets)
- If players receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent, coach or the Head of Rugby within school.
- Be careful about who you give your number to/don't respond to unfamiliar numbers.

School Website and App

- Use the school website for information regarding training times, fixtures and events.
- Match results, reports and photos may be posted on the school website weekly.

Social Networks (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.)

- Clubs should encourage members to be responsible regarding club activities and posts made across all social media platforms.
- Clubs should ensure all members are aware of policies regarding interaction between adults and age-grade players through social network sites.
- Players should be advised to communicate only with persons they know directly through such sites.
- Players should be aware that any content posted on any social media platform can be traced and that negative or abusive comments will be sanctioned heavily.