



**St. Paul's Boxing Academy CIO  
On-line and Social Media Safety  
Policy**

Whilst social media provide excellent tools for helping to engage with club members and the wider public it can also present a number of risks particularly for young people. This policy provides guidance on how St Paul's Boxing Academy CIO uses the internet and social media and the procedures for doing so. The policy outlines how we expect our coaches, volunteers and our members to behave online.

## **AIMS**

1. To protect all children and young people involved in St Paul's and who make use of technology (eg mobile phones, internet) whilst in they are in our care.
2. To provide coaches and volunteers with information regarding online safety and inform them how to respond to incidents.
3. To ensure St Paul's Boxing Academy is operating within our stated values and within the law regarding online behaviour.

## **Understanding the online world**

In using the internet and social media St Paul's Boxing Academy will:

- a) ensure coaches, volunteers and anyone working for St Paul's, as well as club members and parents/carers where appropriate, understand what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour when using websites, social media, apps and other forms of digital communication;
- b) ensure adherence to relevant legislation and good practice guidelines when using social media platforms;
- c) regularly review our safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures to ensure online safeguarding issues are fully integrated including:
  - making sure concerns of abuse or disclosures that take place on line are written into our reporting procedures;
  - cyberbullying is integrated into our anti-bullying policy;
  - provide relevant training to personnel responsible for maintaining the club's online presence.

## **Managing our online presence**

St Paul's Boxing Academy's online presence will adhere to the following guidelines:

- the designated person managing the club's online presence will seek advice from the Club Welfare Officer (CWO) to advise on safeguarding requirements;

- identifying details of children and young people such as names, addresses, contact details will not be posted on social media;
- consent will be asked of parents and carers for the club to communicate with their children through social media, or by another means of communication in line with club policies;
- all accounts and email addresses will be appropriate and fit for purpose.

### **What we expect of coaches, volunteers and staff**

- coaches, volunteers and anyone working for St Paul's will be aware of this policy and behave in accordance with it;
- coaches, volunteers anyone working for St Paul's should seek the advice of the designated safeguarding lead (the CWO) if they have any concerns about the use of the internet or social media;
- coaches, volunteers anyone working for the club should not communicate, follow or befriend children or young people from personal accounts on social media;
- rather than communicate with parents through personal and social media accounts, more formal means of communication should be used such as face to face, in writing or in an email;
- at least one other member of the coaching team should be copied in to any emails sent to children and young people;
- emails should be signed off in a professional and appropriate manner without the use of emojis or symbols;
- any disclosures of abuse reported through social media should be dealt with in the same way as face to face disclosure according to the club's reporting procedures. *See St Paul's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Child Abuse Flowchart.*
- Coaches, volunteers and staff and young people must not engage in sexting or send pictures to anyone that are obscene, indecent or menacing. It is against the law to send any kind of sexual image or video to someone under 18. Any incidents will be dealt with according to the club's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Child Abuse Flowchart including reporting to the Police. Childline.org.uk has a range of helpful resources for young people concerned about sexting.

- Smartphone users must respect the privacy of other adults and not take and distribute images without their consent.

### **What we expect of children and young people**

- children and young people should be aware of this policy and agree to its terms;
- the club expects children and young people to follow the guidelines set out in St Paul's Acceptable Use Statement for Internet and Social Media Use.

### **Using mobile phones or other digital technology to communicate**

The following precautions will ensure children and young peoples' safety.

- Coaches and volunteers will avoid having children or young peoples' personal mobile numbers but will instead seek contact through their parent or carer.
- Texts will be used to communicate information and not to engage in conversation.
- If a young person misinterprets such communication and tries to engage the coach or volunteer the individual coach or volunteer should:
  - end the conversation or stop replying;
  - suggest discussing the issue at the next session;
  - if concerned about the child's welfare follow the procedures as set out in St Paul's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

### **Related policies**

- St Paul's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Child Abuse Flowchart
- St Paul's Acceptable Use Statement for internet and social media use.

Further information on keeping children safe online

- [www.cpsu.org.uk/help-advice/online-safety](http://www.cpsu.org.uk/help-advice/online-safety) (Child Protection in Sport Unit)
- [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
- NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5002

Reviewed - May 2020

Next Review – April 2021