



## **ANACONDA SWIMMING CLUB POLICY ON USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING MEMBERS**

This policy is based on Good Practice Guidelines on the use of Social Networking Sites by ASA Clubs and Club members extracted from Wavepower 2016–19

Its purpose is to ensure all Anaconda Swimming Club (the Club) members and parents follow best practice in respect of safeguarding in their use of social networking sites.

Anaconda Swimming Club Members under the age of 18

1. Do not ask your Club coach or teacher 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](http://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 consider that any communication, comments, photos and video clips posted on a social networking site may be shared with persons other than those for whom it was intended.
  5. Never share pictures of yourself or your friends that might reach other people that you do not wish to see them. Also never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be:
    - hurtful, untrue and upsetting and you may regret sharing later on
    - used by other people in a way you did not intend or want
  6. Do not put pictures of other members on the site within the Club setting as you may breach the Club's Photography Guidance.  
If you do wish to upload 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 a photo. This will not prevent you having pictures of your swimming 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
- Social Networking Policy December 2018

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 face to face as to do so may not only breach Club Policy but also the law.

#### Anaconda Swimming Club Members aged 18 or over

There have been occasions where ASA members/parents of ASA members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse swimming clubs, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and swimmers in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has in some cases led the person who is the subject of the verbal abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.

Anaconda Swimming Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct for swimmers states that swimmers are expected to "Treat all members of and persons associated with Anaconda Swimming Club and the AS with due dignity and respect...the use of inappropriate language or abusive language, bullying, harassment...will not be tolerated and could result in action being taken through the Club disciplinary or child welfare policy'

Members should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of a parent of Anaconda Swimming Club may breach the Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct.

#### Parents of Anaconda Swimming Club Members under the age of 18

There have been occasions where ASA members/parents of ASA members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse swimming clubs, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and swimmers in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner, This has in some cases led the person who is the subject of the verbal abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.

Anaconda Swimming Club's Parents Code of Conduct states that parents are expected to "Behave responsibly as a spectator at training and treat swimmers, coaches, committee members and parents of yours and other clubs with due respect meeting the ASA commitment to equality" Parents should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of a parent of Anaconda Swimming Club may breach the Club's Parents Code of Conduct.

Parents should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of a parent of Anaconda Swimming Club may breach the Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct.

#### Appendix One: further information, guidance, and sources of help

The CPSU Briefing Document "Social networking services, social media and sport: Guidelines for safeguarding children and young people" gives more in depth guidance on social networking sites and can be accessed via the Child Protection in Sport Unit website at [www.cpsu.org.uk](http://www.cpsu.org.uk),

A user guide for parents and swimmers for Twitter is available to view on the ASA website at [www.swimming.org](http://www.swimming.org).

As a user of a social networking site, whether you are a child or an adult, you may at some time have a concern about what you are seeing or being told about by another user. Concerns may range from negative or abusive comments and cyber bullying to suspected grooming for sexual abuse.

Below is a list of agencies that you can contact, anonymously if you wish, where you can raise such concerns.

- The Child Exploitation on Line Protection Unit (CEOP) at [www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk) or by pressing the CEOP button on Facebook or on the "Child Power" section of the ASA website.
- The ASA through swim line 0808 100 4001
- If you are under 18 use the "your Chance to Talk" form on the "Child Power" section of the ASA website
- Childline 0800 1 111 or [www.Childline.org.uk](http://www.Childline.org.uk).
- [www.childnet.org.uk](http://www.childnet.org.uk) which is a NSPCC support service specifically for young people.
- Childline.org.uk which is another NSPCC support service. Using this website, children can talk confidentially to NSPCC advisors online about any issues or problems they may be experiencing, using an application similar to instant Messenger (IM). Stop it Now freephone 0808 1000 900.
- The Local Police or Children s Services – their number appears in the phone book.
- The NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000 or [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk) for adults concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.
- The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk). The IWF was established by the Internet industry to provide a UK internet Hotline, which can be anonymous for the public and IT professionals to report criminal online content in a secure and confidential way. They work in partnership with other agencies to minimise the availability of this content, specifically:
  - Child sexual abuse images hosted anywhere in the world.
  - Criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK.
  - Incitement to racial hatred content hosted in the UK.
  - Non-photographic child sexual abuse images hosted in the UK.

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