



THE EAST RENFREWSHIRE GOLF CLUB'S SOCIAL MEDIA STATEMENT

East Renfrewshire Golf Club recognises the significant benefits of setting up and utilising social networking sites as this is one of the most direct forms of communication with children. There is also recognition that this method of communication poses a number of risks.

For the purposes of this policy a child is recognised as someone under the age of 18 years. This policy outlines East Renfrewshire Golf Club's commitment to ensure all adults working with children in golf adhere to best practice guidelines.

East Renfrewshire Golf Club **will:**

- advise adults not to communicate with children on a one to one basis by text, e-mail, instant messaging or through social networking sites, group messages are always to be recommended.
- Parental consent must be obtained from anyone under the age of 18 when communicating via text, e-mail, instant messaging or social networking sites. Parents/Carers are to be the link.
- highlight that coaches, staff, volunteers, parents and members should always behave responsibly and respectfully when posting online.
- advise that adults must not add or accept children as their "friend" on social networking sites.
- ensure that anyone interacting with a child on behalf of East Renfrewshire Golf Club via social networking sites does so only to discuss golf.
- remind all those who are using social networking sites that these are restricted to people aged 13 years and over.
- ensure that both children and adults are aware of the procedures for reporting any concerns they have relating to online materials. This will involve informing the club or governing bodies Safeguarding Officer in the first instance.

Review

This policy and these procedures will be regularly reviewed:

- in accordance with changes in legislation and guidance on digital communication or following any changes within East Renfrewshire Golf Club.
- following any issue or concern raised about digital communication within East Renfrewshire Golf Club.
- in all other circumstances, at least every three years.