**Coolmine RFC**

**Images, Social Networks and Communication Policy**

**Images and Social Networks:**

Annual online registration on Sportlomo/Rugby Connect confers permission to Coolmine RFC for the recording and use of photos, videos and other digital recordings when selected. Anyone wishing to opt out must inform the Club Welfare Officer, Youths and Minis Director and Team Head Coach in writing annually.

**Club Social Networks:**

Images can be circulated on any of the club’s social media networks – including but not limited to Club Website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. The Club’s PRO has sole responsibility for uploading and monitoring content on these networks. In the absence of a PRO position within the Club, the Club Executive will appoint someone to oversee all Social Media within the Club. Any individual uploading photos of age-grade players must be Garda Vetted. Uploads must not include a Player who has retracted their consent. Digital media uploads will not identify an age-grade player by name without specific Parental/Guardian Consent.

Coaches are encouraged to provide the PRO with Match reports, Team Updates, noteable achievements etc which will be circulated as above.

**Team Social Networks:**

Within each Age-Grade Team, circulation of digital recordings/images etc among coaches/players/parents/general public on their chosen method of communication (eg WhatsApp, Teamer, Facebook etc) is permitted at the discretion of the Head Coach. Uploads must not include a Player who has retracted their consent. Digital media uploads will not identify an age-grade player by name without specific Parental/Guardian Consent. The Head Coach, or their appointee, has responsibility for monitoring content on these networks.

Individuals who have been asked to record/photograph age-grade Teams training/matches must be approved by the Youths and Minis Director and must be Vetted through the CWO Team.

Consent/Approval/Accreditation will be given prior to a major event to professional photographers.

**General Points:**

At all times, comments associated with all uploads must be positive and encouraging. Negative or unsuitable comments will be removed. Matches, Individual/Team performances, the opposition and match officials should not be discussed negatively or in detail. Continued breaches of this may lead to sanctions being taken against the individual concerned*.*

Coolmine RFC is not responsible for any images which are subsequently stored/shared from any Club/Team Social Networks by users.

**Advice for Age-Grade Players:**

* Do not use negative or hurtful words and comments to/about other players, coaches, referees, team-mates in your social media groups (eg text, email, snapchat, WhatsApp etc)
* If you receive an offensive photo, email or message, do not reply, save it, make a note of times and dates and tell a parent or the Club Welfare Officer
* Consider changing your phone number in cases of abuse, bullying or harassment, discuss this with your parents
* Be careful about who you give your number to and do not respond to unfamiliar numbers
* On social media sites, only communicate with persons you know directly
* Do not accept a “friend request” from a Coach/ Adult Volunteer or send them one.
* Avoid using your phone in certain locations e.g. changing rooms - inappropriate use of a camera or phone may cause upset or offence to another person
* Treat your phone as you would any other valuable item to guard against theft

**Communication:**

* Each Team should agree the method of Communication best suited to their needs (eg Teamer, WhatsApp, Text Message) with every parent/guardian being able to join
* Sufficient time should be given to get information to players/parents
* Group, rather than individual, messages are recommended
* Responsible use of phones (camera/video) in certain locations of the club (e.g. changing rooms/toilets) is essential
* For U16s, U17s, U18.5s, a Coaching Group may set up a chat group as a means of circulating club/team details directly to age-grade players. Written parental consent must be sought using the Club’s Communication Parental Consent Policy. The CWO and Youths and Minis Director must be added to the Group.
* As per the above Policy, communication by an Adult Coach/Volunteer with individual Age-Grade Players (incl but not limited to mobile phone, email or social media networks) is not permitted without the specific consent of their parent/guardian. The parent/guardian must be included on all correspondence between adult and age-grade player
* Communication from Coaches to players directly is not permitted from u6s – U15s inclusive.

For further reference, please see the following IRFU Policies

IRFU Images

<https://d19fc3vd0ojo3m.cloudfront.net/irfu/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/25120749/Images.pdf>

IRFU Staying Safer Online

<https://d19fc3vd0ojo3m.cloudfront.net/irfu/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/31120545/Staying-Safer-Online.pdf>