

## **SUFFOLK COASTAL REGION**

### **SOCIAL MEDIA, PHOTOGRAPHY AND SAFEGUARDING**

#### **GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR ROLES IN PETANQUE**

Social media is a great way of keeping up to date with what is occurring in our sport and planning for future events. Also, it is important for children and vulnerable adults to feel happy about their successes and have their achievements recognised, BUT, whilst we would encourage use of social media we would also encourage responsible use by advising all parties to:

**Check** Your social media account is set up securely

**Think** carefully who you connect with online – remember once connected they can follow everything you post.

**Never** give out passwords or login details and log out after use.

**Don't** add friends online that you do not know or have not met.

**Turn off** Bluetooth and location services when devices are not in use. Do you want to let people know your house is empty or your club equipment is available for the taking!!! Your devices let people know where you are;

**Never** post or share messages that are abusive, discriminatory or sexually explicit. All 3 of these are illegal!

#### **Remember -THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PRIVACY ONLINE**

We are all used to using social media freely, but times are changing, and we need to keep ourselves safe, so **think** about what you put on social media, how you use Snapchat, or even WhatsApp. People can take screen shots of your pictures or messages and before you know or even aware, they become viral and therefore totally out of your control. It can also be found years later when people are trolling information of you! Sharing online can put juniors and vulnerable adults at risk when it makes them identifiable, by tagging and visual details, such as club kit. Images may be shared or adapted and used inappropriately. Private chat functions are often unmoderated so can leave adults open to accusations of improper use. Make contact through the parents/guardian or on a closed club site.

#### **Photographs/videos/social media**

**When taking photographs at SCR events and Open Competitions in Suffolk Coastal please ensure at the beginning of that event that you have people's permission, talk to the organisers who can announce that pictures will be taken then this gives people the options to decline photos of themselves. If taking pictures of Juniors' please obtain the permission from their parents/guardian if present, but ensure that these are SHARED WITH PARENTS BEFORE SHARING THEM ON LINE. Parents can be contacted by messaging, telephone or email if not present. Also ensure the parents are sent copies. Again, they should not be put on social media if permission is not granted. Also ensure the parents/guardians and SCR are informed as to where the said photos/videos/films are being stored and for how long.**

**However, if in doubt, speak with the organiser and let them know which groups, individuals you are photographing. THESE GUIDELINES ARE FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND THAT OF PLAYERS AND ARE IN LINE WITH THE DATA PROTECTION ACT 2018. This can be found on the SCR website**

Finally Safeguarding encompasses all of the following:

Abuse – emotional or physical, Racism, neglect (of duty), Sexual (including grooming), bullying, social media

**If you think any of these issues are happening in and around your club of event attended by you**

**Please contact the SCR Regional Management Committee (details are on SPCA website)**

### **Definition of categories**

**Grooming** – people have and do use sport clubs and social media as a method of grooming children and vulnerable adults. Grooming refers to the way in which sexual abusers or potential abusers manipulate their victims and their environment. They do this to reduce the likelihood of the child or vulnerable adult telling/disclosing or being believed. Grooming behaviours may appear positive, extra attention, lifts to and from their club or events and making themselves highly thought of and indispensable within their club. The authority and plausibility makes it difficult for others to challenge. They will also disregard good practice or safeguarding guidelines. Their behaviour should be reported to the safeguarding officer.

**Emotional/Psychological Abuse** - this may occur in sport if children or vulnerable adults are constantly criticised, name calling (inappropriate nick names), sarcasm, racism, bullying or unrealistic pressure to perform to a high expectations. This could come from parents/coaches. Parents or others may make the child's or vulnerable adult's self-image entirely dependent on sporting successes as a result the child/vulnerable adult may feel nervous or lack confidence and self-worth.

**Bullying and Harassment** - sporting competitiveness makes a good environment for the bully. This could be a person making the sport difficult for others. Bullying can and does occur when children/vulnerable adult meet and practice in social areas. The bully is always careful about who else is observing what is said and done. The damage the bully does can cause extreme distress in the child/vulnerable adult. Members have a responsibility to ensure the child/vulnerable adult have a positive experience when playing/practicing. Observe whether the child/vulnerable adults are being included in training and activities. They hurt very quickly and will withdraw. SCR take bullying very seriously and will take appropriate action.

**Racism** – Any form of racial abuse will not be tolerated and Petanque welcomes a diversity of players on an equal level. Name calling or innuendos are not acceptable in any form.

**Neglect** – In sport this could include a coach failing to ensure appropriate safe equipment and instruction is used. Exposing children/vulnerable adult to danger. This would be neglecting their role and neglecting keeping the children safe.

**Physical abuse** – In sport this may be deemed to occur if the nature and intensity of training and competition exceed the capacity of the child/vulnerable adult development stage. Also included in this is if a coach physically punishes a person.

**Photography/videos and social media** involving juniors and vulnerable adults. Permission from parents/guardians must be obtained

In summary if you feel you are concerned about any of the above please contact your Team Captain or SCR Regional Management Committee whose details can be found on the SCPA website.

### **Guidelines for Transgender/Transitional persons**

**Concerns appear to be around toilet facilities. Some premises have three toilet facilities, MEN, WOMEN (FEMALE) and OTHERS, but at present most do not.**

**As Most Petanque Clubs play out of Public Houses, Sports and Social Clubs or Community Centres. The Petanque Clubs should be guided by these premises' policies/guidelines. If Coaches/Managers or responsible adults feel there are issues or concerns then juniors should be accompanied. The same would apply to official regional/national competitions**

**Please refer to your Regional Committee should there be ongoing concerns**

**Updated September 2024/RDB(SCR)**