



Eltham Panthers Netball Club

Social Media & Electronic Communications Policy

1. Purpose

The Eltham Panthers Netball Club (EPNC) Social Media & Electronic Communications Policy has been developed to educate players, parents and coaches about some important child safety considerations when it comes to communicating with children and young people (under 18) in sport. These child safe practices serve to identify and prevent behaviour that may be harmful to children and young people. It complements the [EPNC Cybersafety Code of Conduct](#).

2. Scope

This policy applies to all potential and registered players, coaches, volunteers, and families of Eltham Panthers Netball Club, as well as third party service providers (e.g., external specialist coaching staff).

3. Recommended practices relating to the use of social media and electronic communication at EPNC

The key child safe practices relating to use of social media and electronic communication for adults working with children and young people in sport, and children/young people themselves, include:

i. Social media connections

- a. Adults - Should avoid friend or follow requests to/from children or young people on social media apps (e.g., If a COACH sees a friend suggestion appear on Facebook for one of her PLAYERS, she can't add or follow this child/young person on her account)
- b. Children/Young People - Should avoid requesting or accepting follow requests to/from team officials on social media platforms (e.g., If a PLAYER requests to follow her coach on Instagram, the COACH should decline this request)

ii. Include parents in all online/electronic communications

Avoid one-to-one messages between an adult and young person on social media apps or using other electronic communications. (e.g., If a COACH sees a great netball reel on Instagram and wants to share it with her PLAYERS, they can only do so if they include a PARENT/CARER in this communication OR if a PARENT/CARER wants to a message an

under age COACH to raise issues or ask questions, this should always include the junior COACH'S PARENT/CARER in this communication).

iii. Seek parental/carers consent for photos/videos

Do not use a personal phone, camera or video camera to take images or video footage of children or young people without the consent of a parent/carers (e.g., If a PLAYER asks the coach to film a tik tok video of her and some friends at the courts, the COACH should decline this request, unless it has been discussed with and approved by the PARENTS/CARERS of the children/young people).

iv. Use sport specific communication apps

Teams should use sport specific communication apps (e.g., Team App) where possible to communicate with groups and teams for the purpose of their role. (e.g., PLAYERS should not use Facebook Messenger to contact her COACH to say she can't make training, this should be posted to the Team App team chat where PARENTS/CARERS are also included in this communication).

4. Relevant Guidelines & Policies

For further information, please refer to the [Sport Integrity Australia guidelines](#), E-Safety Guides for [Parents/Carers](#), [Teens](#), and [Administrators/Officials](#) as well as the [Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy](#), or reach out to our EPNC Child Safety Officers.

5. Contact Information:

For assistance or more information regarding use of social media and electronic communications at EPNC, please contact the Child Safety Officer via email to: childsafety@elthampanthersnetballclub.com.au.