



GLTC Child Protection Policy: Use of Mobile Phones and Communication with U18s

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At GLTC, the safety and well-being of all young people involved in the club are of utmost importance. To safeguard our young members, we have implemented clear guidelines regarding communication between adults and individuals under 18, particularly when using mobile phones, text messages, and messaging apps (e.g., WhatsApp).

1. Communication with Under-18s:

- Adults (coaches, captains, and parents) must never communicate directly with individuals under 18, via mobile phone, text, or messaging apps (e.g., WhatsApp), regardless of parental consent.
- All communication with U18s must be mediated through the young person's parent or guardian. Adults should always engage with the parent or guardian directly.

2. WhatsApp Groups and Other Messaging Platforms:

- Children (under 18) must not be added to any WhatsApp group or messaging platform, even if their parent or guardian is a member of the group.
- Communication regarding team-related matters should be directed to the parent or guardian, who can then relay relevant information to the young person as needed. This ensures that the young person's privacy and safety are respected.
- Private messaging between adults and U18s is strictly prohibited, regardless of the situation or parental consent.

3. Parental Consent and Involvement:

- Adults should never initiate direct contact with U18s. If there is any need for communication related to the team or events, it should always be done through the young person's parent or guardian.
- Parents/guardians must be kept informed of any communication related to their child. The responsibility to share information and ensure the young person receives it lies with the parent or guardian, not the adult club member.