

Oxton Hockey Club



Social Media & Messaging Code of Conduct

1. Official Communication Channels & Spond Mandate

- **Official Platform:** All official club communications, team selections, fixture details, and direct messaging regarding club activities must take place exclusively via Spond.
- **Other messaging app restrictions:** Any other unmonitored messaging app (such as WhatsApp) is strictly prohibited for official club or team communications. While adult players and parents may choose to set up informal WhatsApp groups among themselves, these are strictly unofficial, and club leaders, coaches, and team captains must not use them as primary operational channels.
- **Mandatory Parental/Guardian Oversight:** Because all Oxton HC teams contain or may contain members aged under 18, every U18 member's Spond profile must be linked to a parent or guardian. All direct messages sent via Spond - including operational messages sent by Team Captains regarding availability, logistics, or kit - must automatically grant visible oversight to the member's linked parent/guardian.

2. General Messaging Standards & Transparency

- **Direct Messaging (1-to-1):** 1-to-1 messaging between adult members/officials and U18 members outside of approved platforms like Spond (which provides automatic guardian oversight) is strictly prohibited.
- **Group Messaging Requirements:** Any group messaging channel involving U18s must include at least two DBS-checked adults (e.g., Captain, Coach, or Welfare Officer) and ensure transparent parent/guardian access at all times.
- **Tone and Conduct:** All messages sent on behalf of the club must remain professional, respectful, and aligned with England Hockey's Code of Ethics and Behaviour. Bullying, derogatory comments, or inappropriate language will lead to immediate disciplinary action under Club Rules.

3. Imagery & "No-Camera" Zones

- **Prohibited Areas:** The use of any image-capturing device (phones, tablets, cameras) is strictly prohibited in designated "no-camera zones," including changing rooms and toilets.
- **Anonymity of Minors:** Personal details such as full name, age, address, or school must never be linked to published images of a minor on public or social media channels.

4. Opposition & Photography Consent

- **Opposition Notification:** Visiting teams must be notified of any official club photography prior to fixtures.
- **The "Silence Rule":** If a visiting player's consent is unconfirmed or withheld, those players must be treated as "Non-Consent" and strictly excluded from public or social media posts.

Policy Version Control

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