

Who is this document for?

This guidance is aimed at anyone involved in table tennis in England including clubs, leagues, coaches, officials, staff, volunteers, parents/carers, spectators and members, particularly those who work with or support under-18s or vulnerable adults.

Introduction:

Technology has transformed the way we communicate, making it easy to share information quickly and widely. Platforms such as social media, live streaming, and virtual meetings can be powerful tools for promoting table tennis, engaging with members, hosting meetings, and delivering training.

However, this increased accessibility brings responsibilities. Inappropriate or unsafe use of digital communication can expose individuals – especially children and vulnerable adults – to risk. Everyone involved in table tennis must ensure they are using these tools in a safe, respectful, and appropriate manner.

Social Media:

Used appropriately, social media can:

- Promote events and achievements
- Attract new players
- Share key updates and resources
- Encourage community engagement
- Celebrate the sport and its members

Social media **must never be used** to criticise, harass, or bully others, or to share content that may cause harm, offend, or put others at risk.

Common Social Media Platforms

- **Facebook** – Widely used for sharing updates, images, events, and group discussion.
- **Instagram** – Popular for photo and video sharing; often used by younger demographics.
- **TikTok** – Focused on short videos and trends, with a predominantly young user base.
- **YouTube** – Useful for sharing training clips, match highlights, and promotional videos.
- **WhatsApp** – Messaging app commonly used for group coordination.
- **Snapchat** – Allows time-limited photo and video sharing; mostly used by teenagers.
- **X (formerly Twitter)** – A microblogging platform where users share posts (up to 280 characters).

Note: These platforms frequently evolve, and it is important to stay updated on privacy settings and usage trends.

Appropriate use of social media

Those posting content on social media or using other online platforms, must follow these best practices:

- Use **club or league-managed social media accounts** for all table tennis communications.
- Do **not** use personal accounts to contact young players or vulnerable adults.

- Do **not** accept or send personal friend/follow requests to under-18s in the sport.
- Keep all communication **professional, relevant, and transparent**.
- Never post or share content that is:
 - Offensive, discriminatory, or inflammatory
 - Inappropriate images or language
 - Critical of individuals or organisations
- Always obtain **parental consent** before posting images or videos of under-18s.

Club and League Social Media Accounts

Clubs and leagues should:

- Create **official** social media profiles with designated administrators.
- Monitor and moderate all content and comments.
- Ensure privacy settings are appropriately configured.
- Use **club email addresses**, not personal ones, when setting up accounts.
- Only use their own original content, or content that they have the rights/permissions to use
- Follow Table Tennis England's **Photographic and Video Policy**.

Parents who are also Coaches or Volunteers

We recognise that some parents may hold dual roles. In such cases:

- Avoid direct contact with young players via personal social media accounts.
- Refrain from accepting friend/follow requests from under-18s in the sport.
- Inform your club's **Welfare Officer** of your dual role to ensure transparency.

Online meetings/training sessions:

When using online platforms (e.g., Zoom, Teams) for meetings or training involving under-18s:

- Obtain written **parental consent** in advance.
- Use **secure, password-protected** meeting links.
- Do not share personal contact details.
- Keep a **register of attendees**.
- Ensure a second adult is present when under-18s are involved.
- Follow your club's **online safety policy** (template available from TTE).

E-Safety: Keeping Everyone Safe Online and with Digital Technology

All members, staff, and volunteers should understand:

- What is considered acceptable and unacceptable online behaviour
- How to **report concerns** (see SafeTT Guidelines)
- The importance of maintaining a clear **boundary between personal and professional use**

Key safety measures include:

- Training for those managing club websites and social media
- Vetting content before posting
- Clearly distinguishing between personal and club accounts
- Regular checks by the Club/League Welfare Officer
- Avoiding the collection or publication of personal details of under-18s
- Ensure that adequate privacy settings are in place

Good/acceptable online content:

- Celebrations of achievements
- Match photos/videos (with consent)
- Event promotion
- Educational material or training tips
- Positive messages that support inclusivity and respect

Bad/unacceptable online content:

- Inappropriate jokes, memes, or comments
- Private or personal information
- Photos/videos without proper consent
- Anything that may embarrass, harass, or harm others
- Negative or critical remarks about individuals or organisations

Social media and digital communication can be powerful tools for table tennis – but they must be used with care, professionalism, and respect. By following this guidance, we can ensure that the online environment is as safe, inclusive, and welcoming as the sport itself.

If anyone has any queries or would like any further information please contact TTE's Safeguarding Team on:
Email: safeguarding@tabletennisengland.co.uk
Tel: 01908 208860 option 3

Additional Information:

www.nspcc.org.uk
www.ceop.police.uk
SafeTT Policy
SafeTT Guidelines