



SIDMOUTH & OTTERY HOCKEY CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This is a statement of the Club's expectation regarding the use of social media platforms for contacting members, including those under 18.

In this context social media platforms include but are not limited to WhatsApp and Messenger, but the principles should also apply to direct messaging for U18 using any electronic medium. The preferred method for contacting any U18 is Pitchero.

- Any group set up for the purposes of hockey should only be used for that purpose, i.e. the coordination and delivery of club hockey
- Where a group is set up for a team or teams, the captain(s) are responsible for owning the group and ensuring the following:
 - No U18 can be a member of the group without a parent being included in the group as well. No exceptions.
 - That the contact details are up to date and include all relevant members, and anyone who has left the Club has been removed.
 - Please remember that a person's membership of a WhatsApp group used for Hockey Club business does not give anyone the automatic right to contact them privately. If in doubt - check.
 - The content of the group remains appropriate in terms of content, language and 'behaviour', and any inappropriate activity is shut down promptly by the group owner. All members need to be made aware if the group's members include any U18s and their parents.
 - Any problems or concerns should be reported to the Playing Committee Co-Chairs and the Club Welfare Officer (or their deputy)
- If an individual who is U18 needs to be contacted by e-mail, text or other messaging medium, a parent must be copied into the communication. Only in very specific circumstances is it permissible not to do this. For information on the exception, please contact the Club Secretary.

Steve Ellison
Club Chair

Dated 31 November 2025