



Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club  
Social Media Policy  
For  
Coaches, Players, Parents and Supporters

## **Introduction**

Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club recognises that social networking sites and applications, such as Facebook and Twitter, are increasingly used as communication tools of choice for young people. These, and others like them, enable users to chat, post pictures, write blogs and leave comments, through the creation of an online profile that can either be publicly available or restricted to an approved circle of electronic friends. The output of some sites are, however, publicly viewable by default and 'sharing' broadens the circle of potential viewers beyond the originally subscribed personal circle.

Whilst these technologies provide exciting opportunities, they are accompanied by potentially negative consequences if abused by users.

The purpose of this policy is to provide an understanding of expected behaviour of members of Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club in their use of social networking as it relates to that person's role in the Club.

## **Specific Practice**

### **1. Coaches, Managers and Off-ice Officials**

Coaches, Managers and all Off-ice Officials of the Club are in a position of trust and should not be in contact through social networking with young people met through the Club.

- I. You must not request to become a friend/follower of a young person with whom you are in a position of responsibility through the Club.
- II. If a young person in the Club requests to become a named friend in your circle on any social networking site or application you should decline if:
  1. You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child.
  2. You hold a position of trust and responsibility in the Club.
  3. Your contact with the young person is through Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.

If you are the parent of a young person and have access to your child's circle, you should not allow their friends or followers direct access to your circles unless you have express permission from that child's parent/Guardian. As a Club official, you should also inform the Club's Child Protection Officer.



## 2. Players

- I. Do not ask your coach, manager or other off-ice official to join your circle on any social media application or site – they will refuse as that would breach good practice.
- II. Consider carefully who you are inviting to be friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
- III. Always remember that anything you say, including photos, pictures and video clips posted to your circle may be shared with people other than those for whom they were intended.
- IV. Never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that may be:
  - Hurtful, untrue or upsetting and you may regret sharing later on.
  - Used by other people in a way you did not intend or want
- V. Do not post pictures or video to your site of other club members in a club setting as you may breach the Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club Photographic Policy. If you wish to upload such a picture you must get advice and consent of your parent, the other person/people in the upload and their parent/guardian, and a Club Officer before uploading. This does not prevent you having pictures of your Ice Hockey friends on your site taken outside the sporting area, but it is good advice to always ensure that they and their parents are happy with any picture you have of them on your site.
- VI. If you have concerns about something you have seen or an unwelcome approach, inform your parent/guardian.

## 3. Parents and Supporters

- I. Be aware that social networking is a method of communication like letter writing or the spoken word; it is bound by the same laws and rules. Consider what you post.
- II. Encourage your young people to use the Internet positively and help them to share information with their fellow Club members responsibly.

## General Practice

With reference to Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club, Coaches, Off-ice Officials, Players and Supports will be considered in contravention of the Club Code of Conduct if they use Social Media:

- 1 To abuse, threaten, bully or criticise Players, Coaches, Officials, Parents or Supporters of Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club, or other Clubs, Teams, Players, and/or Officials of the English Ice Hockey Association (EIHA).
- 2 In such a way as to bring Lee Valley Lions Junior Ice Hockey Club into disrepute.

If you have concerns about something that you have seen online that relates to the Club, please contact the Club Child Protection Officer, whose details can be found at [www.leevalleylions.org.uk](http://www.leevalleylions.org.uk) under the About menu.



# Lee Valley Lions

## Junior Ice Hockey Club

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[www.leevalleylions.org.uk](http://www.leevalleylions.org.uk)

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