

Kent Society of Rugby Football Union Referees (KSRFUR)

Advice and Guidance on the Use of Social Media and Match Video in Relation to KSRFUR Safeguarding

(Circulated to the KSRFUR Membership by WTR E-Mail on 03/12/2018)

Social media is proving a very valuable means of communication to all members and within certain subgroups. However, it is timely to point out the simple and basic rules of use to protect the Society and more importantly, yourselves. There have been recent incidents which could well have led to difficult situations for the Society.

- ‘Think before posting’. Only post comments about people and clubs that you would be happy to say to the people concerned is a good rule of thumb. Remember that people directly or indirectly involved may see the posts so be sure of the facts.
- It’s best not to view match film of under age games for Safeguarding and Data Protection reasons. Under no circumstances can the footage or links to footage be shared with anyone for the reasons given.
- In the event of a sending off, do not accept offers to view the footage after the game. This is RFU Protocol as it could prejudice your report and the disciplinary process as players are automatically banned from the date of the sending off. The Disciplinary Committee will rule on the outcome. The red card cannot be withdrawn under any circumstances.
- Do not share Match Official Development reports as these should be confidential between the referee the MOD and small numbers of Grading Committee members. Respect the confidentiality of Match Observers: They are expected to respect yours.

We don’t have significant issues with the use of Social Media and abiding by these simple guidelines will help ensure continuing good governance.