**Policy on the use of Social Media, texts, apps, emails and messaging services.**

Actonians Cricket club (the Club) recognises that social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram have become an important and influential channel of communication for our members and community. To assist with good practice being implemented online the Club has developed a policy for both official and personal use of social media. The Club does not monitor personal social media accounts but will address any issues that violate club policies. Whilst the Club encourages the use of social media, it reminds users that at any time they can be perceived as a spokesperson of the Club.

**Policy:**

* All Actonians Cricket Club's Codes of Conduct apply online and in text, e-mail and other messaging services
* All communications must conform to 'Safe Hands' policy and guidance
* All communication must be through Actonians Cricket Club's social media pages
* No new social media account representing The Club should be set up without prior approval from the executive committee
* All contact with players must be in relation to training, coaching, matches and cricket related activity
* All communication with children (under 18 years old) must be via their parents/ carers, including text, e-mail or Whats App messages. No direct contact will be made with children
* An exception may be made, with the parents/carers prior consent, when a text or e-mail to the parent may be copied to a 16/17 year old. This means the child receives the information directly but the parent/carer can monitor the communication. The parent must receive the same message as the child simultaneously. Any responses that appear inappropriate must be brought to the attention of the parent/carer
* Nothing will be posted by the Club or its officials, coaches, players or managers on social media, or sent by text, app or e-mail or any other messaging service which could cause personal distress or be seen as inappropriate for children
* Consent must be obtained before any personal information is posted online, including photographs where an individual can be identified
* Any concerns regarding the inappropriate or unsafe use of social media must be reported to the Club or County Welfare Officer
* If the use of social media is placing a child at risk of harm, the police must be informed immediately