

# Guide to Staying Safe Online

## The Basics

- All online communication should be **safe, respectful, and open**.
- Safeguarding responsibilities apply **online as well as in person**.

## Managing Accounts and Messages

- All club or fishery social media accounts should be **password protected**.
- Accounts should be checked by **at least two committee-appointed members**.
- These members should work closely with the **Club Welfare Officer** and follow Angling Trust guidance.
- It should always be clear that messages come from the **club or fishery**, not from one person acting alone.
- **One-to-one messaging between volunteers or staff and children is not allowed**.

## Communicating with Children and Young People

- **Written consent from a parent or carer** is needed before communicating online with anyone under 18.
- Children under 13 should not be added to social media accounts (or under 16s for WhatsApp).
- Where possible, parents or carers should be **copied into messages** sent to their child.
- Communication should be:
  - open and appropriate
  - visible to others
  - limited to club or fishery matters, such as events, times, venues, and results
- Whenever possible, send the **same message to the whole group** rather than to individuals.

## Appropriate Content and Conduct

- Messages must never include offensive, abusive, or inappropriate language.
- Any inappropriate posts or comments should be **removed quickly** by the site monitor.
- If there are safeguarding concerns, these should be shared with parents or carers where needed and referred to the **Angling Trust Safeguarding lead** [safeguarding@anglingtrust.net](mailto:safeguarding@anglingtrust.net)
- Personal and contact details must be handled carefully and securely (for example, use **Bcc** for group emails).

## Websites, Images, and Public Content

- **Written consent** is needed before publishing images or information about children.
- Do not publish personal information that could identify or locate a child.
- Images should always be appropriate and show children suitably dressed for angling activities.



- Take extra care when sharing information about vulnerable children.
- Details of specific events should only be shared with people who are directly involved.

### **Forums and Online Groups**

- Group forums and messaging apps need **close monitoring**.
- Volunteers and staff should avoid online discussions about individuals, selection, or performance.
- Offensive or inappropriate comments should be removed quickly and handled using safeguarding procedures.

### **Further Help and Support**

This summary should be read alongside Angling Trust safeguarding policies and guidance.

If you need advice or want to raise a concern, please contact [safeguarding@anglingtrust.net](mailto:safeguarding@anglingtrust.net)