**Scottish Brass Band Association**

**Use of Social Networking, Photography & Child Protection 2017**

*This document covers our policy on the above, for SBBA events during the year & to be used be our member bands as necessary.*

**Outline:**

As an organisation working with young people, we acknowledge the impact and involvement that social networking & messenger sites/apps have on the lives of young people as well as their role in the way young people interact with each other. There is huge potential for these tools to be used by our organisers and conductors to communicate activities, encourage development etc.

At the same time, we acknowledge the dangers & potential risks that these sites can pose, to both young people and our organisers. Therefore as an organisation, we will now be following guidelines for social networking and we ask that these are also followed by our young people and parents in order to safeguard everyone involved.

**Guideline for using Social Networking with Young People:**

**Use of Messages & Communication with individuals**

All social networks allow private messaging to take place between “friends”. We would prefer if any one-to-one messaging does require to occur (particularly between adults and young people) that it be kept to a minimum and done through a platform which keeps a record of these messages (i.e; Facebook Messenger). Ideally however, the parents would also be included in any messages which require to go to individual members.

We recommend the following actions when communicating with young people on social media:

* Keep any communication PUBLIC, or at least logged. Messages both incoming and outgoing should be saved and kept.
* All contact via Facebook etc should be appropriate and minimise the use of abbreviations such as IDK (I don’t Know) and LOL
* Communications between young people and adults in the organisation should be done so with parental consent.
* If at any point either an adult or young person becomes uncomfortable with the conversation, please inform the Child Protection Officers concerned (your band CPO, or SBBA CPO, Caroline Farren – sbbacpo@gmail.com).

**Specific Site Guidelines**

**Facebook/Band App**

Young people should only be added to Facebook group messenger, Band App or Facebook pages with parental consent. This should be done via a consent form. When using group messaging, it is recommended that more than one adult is part of the message.

It is advisable to avoid the use of abbreviations as these can be misinterpreted.

If you are concerned about a young person from their posts on social media, you should report this to the Child Protection Officers for the band for further guidance/support.

If a young person makes direct contact with you, consider the content of the communication before making contact with the parent and the young person if a reply is required (i.e; asking for references for school/further education/employment) or passing on to the Child Protection Officer if a reply is not required and the communication is informal (general “chat”).

**Twitter**

The public nature of the majority of twitter profiles means that people can freely choose who to ‘follow’. It means you can freely choose to follow them back, so if you do decide to do this, please be aware to keep the content of your profile “appropriate” and only reply to people when absolutely necessary.

**Snapchat**

The nature of snapchat makes it completely inappropriate for use when communicating with young people and we therefore advise you not to use this forum.

**Instagram**

We recommend that this is used for the purpose of sharing photos rather than for use of it’s messaging features.

**Photography/Video Footage**

We will be asking all parents to sign a consent form to allow us to use images and footage of their child/children on our band Facebook, Twitter and Band App accounts. We also intend to at times share these images/footage for purposes of recruitment/advertising and will ask parents to consider this when completing the consent forms issued along with their membership details.