

## Changes to Social Media Use for Under-16s

### Netball Victoria Factsheet

#### Background:

On 10 December 2025, new rules to **delay** young people under the age of 16 from creating or keeping accounts on certain social media platforms under the *Online Safety Amendment (Social Media Minimum Age) Act 2024 (Cth)*, come into effect.

Sporting organisations may be impacted in terms of how they communicate with young people but are ultimately not responsible for ensuring under-16s do not have or keep social media accounts.

#### Quick Facts:

- It is the responsibility of social media platforms to ensure under-16s do not create or have accounts on restricted platforms, **not** sporting organisations, volunteers, or families
- It is described as a 'delay' and not a 'ban' – the intention is to delay young Australians from creating or keeping social media accounts and to protect them from the pressures and risks that arise from having social media accounts
- People under 16 can still view public social media profiles that don't require logging into an account, they are only prevented from having their own accounts
- Sports associations, leagues, clubs, and coaches can continue to use platforms such as WhatsApp to communicate with minors **provided** they are still complying with Netball Australia's policies, the Commission for Children and Young People's (CCYP) Child Safe Standards and all relevant professional boundaries to keep children and young people safe online
- Social media platforms are subject to fines (penalties up to \$49.5 million) for not taking reasonable steps to prevent under-16s from having social media accounts. Families, young people, and sporting organisations will not be held liable or get in trouble for under-16s having accounts

#### Current List of Restricted and Unrestricted Platforms:

Restrictions apply to platforms that meet the following three criteria (unless excluded by legislation):

# New Social Media Restrictions – Effective 10 December 2025



1. The sole purpose, or significant purpose, of the service is to enable online social interaction between 2 or more end-users;
2. The service allows end-users to link to, or interact with, some or all of the other end-users;
3. The service allows end-users to post material on the service;

The current list as of 21 November 2025, according to the E-Safety Commission is as follows:

Restricted Platforms	Not Currently Restricted Platforms
Facebook	Discord
Instagram	WhatsApp
Reddit	Google Classroom
Snapchat	LEGO Play
Threads	Messenger
TikTok	Pinterest
Twitch	Roblox
X (formerly Twitter)	Steam and Steam Chat
YouTube	YouTube Kids
Kick	GitHub

Remember this is a new and evolving space, so please regularly check the [latest list](#) for updates.

As mentioned above, under-16s will still be able to browse public social media pages on restricted platforms.

For example, this means that if your club or association has a public Instagram profile or Facebook account, users who are under 16 years of age can still view your content. Therefore, your content must always remain appropriate for children and young people and be in line with Netball Australia and Netball Victoria policies.

## What Should Affiliates Do?

- If associations, leagues, clubs, coaches or anyone in the netball environment are currently using social media platforms to communicate with under-16s, you may need to reconsider how you are communicating with them. You must **always** comply with the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy when communicating with children and young people online

- If you change your communication pathways, make sure you update your members, including communicating appropriately with children and young people, their families, volunteers, and coaches
- Refresh yourselves and remind your members on the appropriate ways to interact with all children and young people online (please see reminders of Professional Boundaries below)
- For more support, direct members to the E-Safety Commission resource hub at this link: [Social media age restrictions hub | eSafety Commissioner](#). This website has resources for under-16s and families, FAQs and other helpful links.

## Reminders of Professional Boundaries:

Professional boundaries, include but are not limited to:

- Avoiding one-to-one contact with minors electronically or online (including phone calls) without the inclusion of a parent, carer or guardian
- Ensuring online content and electronic communications are:
  - directly associated with delivering netball-related services, such as advising when a scheduled event is cancelled
  - concise with personal or social content limited only to convey a message in a polite and friendly manner
  - devoid of any sexualised language
  - not promoting any unauthorised social activity
- Images or footage of children or young people, or identifying children or young people, must not be published online or print without the written consent of the child or young person's approved person either through a signed image consent form or where a contract allows for publication

For more, please see [Netball Australia's Safeguarding Children and Young People's Policy](#)

## Do we need to report under-16s who are online?

- Social media platforms will be expected to have clear reporting mechanisms for people to report accounts that are suspected to be held by under-16s, as well as to request reviews of false reporting
- However, the responsibility is on the social media platforms to prevent under-16s from creating or keeping social media accounts
- Sports organisations, families, and young people will not be penalised

## Next Steps:

### Ongoing Affiliate Support:

Netball Victoria will hold an information session for affiliates in February 2026.

### Self-Audit of Your Online Environment:

- It is a good time to audit your online environment. You can do this by:
  - Checking how many social media platforms and electronic communication mediums your club, association or coaching business utilises and determining who monitors, controls and has access to these accounts. Close any that are no longer relevant, update any passwords, and restrict user access as required
  - Auditing your Netball Connect profile and removing old members so that you are not holding details of minors (or others) who are no longer members
  - Looking at your website and social media platforms to ensure you have up-to-date and appropriate information online, including ensuring that any images of children and young people comply with the Netball Australia Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

## Key Resources:

[What do social media age restrictions mean for sport organisations? | eSafety Commissioner](#)

[Social media age restrictions hub | eSafety Commissioner](#)

[Netball Australia | Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy](#)

## Where can young people get support if they're finding the changes difficult:

[Kids Helpline | Phone Counselling Service | 1800 55 1800](#) (5-25 year olds)

[Connect with a mental health clinician 1-on-1 | headspace](#) (12–25-year-olds)

[Beyond Blue Webchat Support Service - Beyond Blue](#) (all ages)

[Get Help \(QLife\)](#) (LGBTQI+ Support)

[13YARN - Call 13 92 76 | 24 /7 Crisis support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders](#) (Aboriginal and Torres Islander Support)

[How are you feeling about the social media restric... - Beyond Blue Forums - 614545](#) (Beyond Blue Social Media Restrictions Forum)