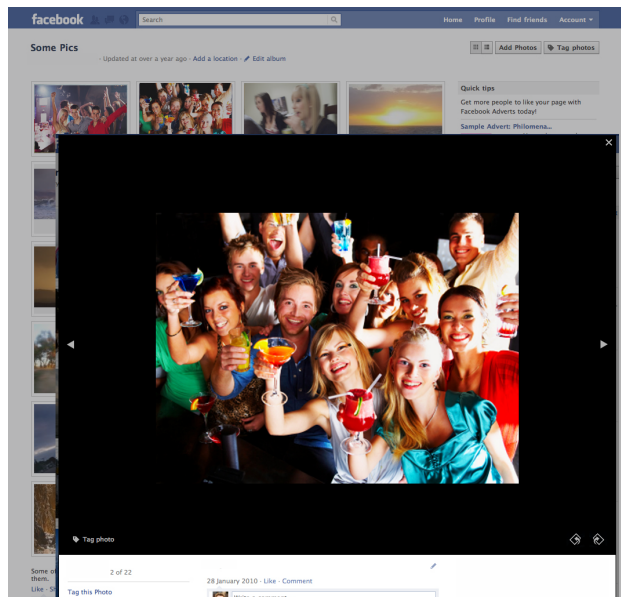


Child Protection Discussion Starter “Facebook Page”

This case study is designed to promote discussion about child protection, and the approach that your club, its members, administrators and volunteers take towards creating a child safe environment. Read the case study, then consider the questions that follow. You should perform this activity in a group.



What would your club do?

An athletics club has its own facebook page, and most of the kids in the club are members. A young male coach of the U14 squad tells his athletes that he wants them to become friends with him on facebook because it's easier that way for him to send them information. The team become friends with the coach. Several teenage female athletes on the team explore the coach's facebook site, and discover some photos from a wild party that the coach held with his friends. These photos show partial nudity, drunkenness and other inappropriate images. The news of these photos quickly spreads,

and soon all of the team, plus plenty of other kids from the club, have seen the photos. This eventually gets back to the club administrators who meet with the coach and ask him to leave for inappropriate dealings with minors.

Discussion points

- Was the club acting fairly in sacking the coach?
- Did the coach behave inappropriately?
- Should coaches befriend junior members on social networking sites?
- Consider a whole club approach - what difference would it have made?
- Would this happen at your club?
- Do you have procedures or policies in place to deal with something like this?