

National Council

Welfare Officer Role

Sussex Councillor seeking views on TTE changes to the Role

The current role of the Club/League Welfare Officer, and by inference County as well, is on the TTE Website and is attached.

Within Sussex County during the summer a concern was raised by a parent in relation to a private event (not County) and a video being taken of their child and published. As a result, both County and Private event organisers have been reminded of the need to ensure all parental consents in respect of photography and videos are obtained in writing, which is absolutely correct.

As an aside it is my view that the major concern is around how data (photo's/video's) is used but believe the TTE documentation around the use of social media on the website is excellent and should be the reference point for everyone and not only for all event organisers and coaches.

TTE has stated to Sussex County that all completed permissions for every Event held such as Tournaments, Training Camps, County Championship Matches and Coaches, are to be sent to County Welfare Officers to manage, collect and maintain all the records. It is my belief that this has not been communicated widely by TTE, needs more discussion, and should not be part of the County Welfare Role.

Visibility of the permissions obtained is not in contention but where the information is stored and referenced and used is of concern for the following reasons.

- Open Events have data across the Country (last Sussex Cadet/Junior 1* < 20% Sussex Players);
- Event Organisers/Coaches have clear accountability to ensure relevant permissions are obtained;
- Volunteers should not be in a position where they check/monitor on other Volunteers;
- There is greater reliance on the character/core skills of the role interworking with others;
- TTE endorses Open Events, with trained Referees and Organisers, but not Welfare Officers;

It is my view that this is a significant change to the County Welfare Officer Role and believe needs further consultation. TTE should look to discharge their responsibilities in another way and if not via approved and accountable personnel such as Referees and Organisers then perhaps by a dedicated independent TTE Welfare Officer.

Sussex Councillor seeks feedback and views of other Councillors.

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