

Scout Information - False information

Northants FA have received information regarding individuals(s) trying to gain personal information about children while posing as a Scout for a professional club. This communication is currently through Facebook Messenger but might move to another social platform. The individual(s) are reaching out to unsuspecting individuals and requesting personal details such as home addresses, contact numbers, medical details and specific information about children. They stated that they had recently attended a match and wanted to gather personal information from the coach about the children, to scout for a position on the new team which is false. The club in question have confirmed that this communication was not from the individual or on behalf of the club.

Safety Measures:

Do Not Engage: If you or someone you know receives a message from someone claiming to be a scout and asking for personal details, please DO NOT provide any information. This also could breach GDPR.

Report: Use the reporting mechanism on Facebook or other social media platforms to flag suspicious behaviour. Additionally, please inform info@northantsfa.com to allow the county to keep a record and inform the necessary authorities, if appropriate.

Verify: If you are ever in doubt, contact the club they are stating they are from through official channels to verify any alleged scouting activity or communication.

Educate & Share: Please inform other parents, carers and coaches about this warning. An informed community is a safer community.

The safety and security of our community are of paramount importance to us. Please always exercise caution online and report any suspicious behaviour. Parents and carers will be excited, thinking that a football league club is interested in recruiting their child, and this highlights how important it is to promote online safety. This is also a known method of grooming and sexual exploitation to gain the trust of parents and carers, along with reassuring children that they do have known information about them.

[Staying safe online | Childline](#) this is an excellent resource for Parents and Carers.

Thank you, AFC Rushden & Diamonds Youth, for highlighting this concern, and acting promptly to make sure we can get the message out. The message is also on social media.

Kind Regards

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NORTHANTS FOOTBALL