

# Service Age Requirements

## Social Media Services

When it comes to social media, you must be aware, once you post something on the Internet, it is very likely to stay there forever. Copies can be made of the pictures and texts you post and those copies can be freely shared by others, even after you remove the original copy. The original material you or your child post (text, picture or video) may even be adapted and modified by others before they re-share it on other media. You should consider these as a parent, when you post images of your child online. You should be extra vigilant as a parent and help your child make good decisions before posting anything about themselves online. Everything your child posts online has the potential to affect their future.

*Service:* **Facebook**

*Age:* **13**

Facebook's Terms Of Service do not specify that parents/guardians should register the account for their children. The relevant points of Facebook's Terms Of Service only specify the following:

"1. Who can use Facebook

When people stand behind their opinions and actions, our community is safer and more accountable. For this reason, you must:

use the same name that you use in everyday life;

provide accurate information about yourself;

create only one account (your own) and use your timeline for personal purposes; (...)

We try to make Facebook broadly available to everyone, but you cannot use Facebook if:

You are under 13 years old.

(...)

You are prohibited from receiving our products, services or software under applicable laws." (1)

As Facebook is a complex social media service, it is beyond the scope of this document to highlight every possible scenario you, as the parent, should consider. Please read ConnectSafely's 34-page guide (2) to find more information to best protect your child's online presence. (See the link in the sources below).

*Source:*

(1) <https://www.facebook.com/legal/terms>

(2) <https://www.connectsafely.org/facebook-for-parents/>

*Service:* **Instagram**

*Age:* **13**

Important to note:

“The Instagram Service is one of the Facebook Products, provided to you by Facebook Ireland Limited. These Terms of Use therefore constitute an agreement between you and Facebook Ireland Limited.”

Therefore, you must consider that Instagram, as a service, is focused on “providing consistent and seamless experiences across other Facebook Company Products.”

#### “Your Commitments

Who Can Use Instagram. We want our Service to be as open and inclusive as possible, but we also want it to be safe, secure, and in accordance with the law. So, we need you to commit to a few restrictions in order to be part of the Instagram community.

You must be at least 13 years old. (...)”

Source: <https://help.instagram.com/581066165581870>

Service: **Snapchat**

Age: **13**

#### “Snaps

Snapchat servers are designed to automatically delete all Snaps after they’ve been viewed by all recipients.

Snapchat servers are designed to automatically delete all unopened Snaps after 30 days.

Snapchat servers are designed to automatically delete unopened Snaps sent to a Group Chat after 24 hours.” (1)

Please note, however, that this does not eliminate the possibility of someone saving a copy of the image and then sharing that image on, even modifying it. If you are concerned about the lifespan of other forms of media posted to Snapchat, please follow link (1) in the sources below.

#### “1. Who can use the Services

No-one under 13 is allowed to create an account or use the Services. We may offer additional Services with additional terms that may require you to be even older to use them. So please read all terms carefully.

By using the Services, you state that:

You can form a binding contract with Snap Inc. (...)” (2)

Source:

(1) <https://support.snapchat.com/en-GB/article/when-are-snaps-chats-deleted>

(2) <https://www.snap.com/en-GB/terms/>

Service: **TikTok**

Age: **13**

#### “1. Your Relationship With Us

The Terms form a legally binding agreement between you and us. Please take the time to read them carefully. If you are under age 18, you may only use the Services with the consent of your parent or legal guardian. Please be sure your parent or legal guardian has

reviewed and discussed these Terms with you.

#### 11. Other Terms

**Age Limit.** The Platform is only for people 13 years old and over. By using the Platform, you confirm that you are over the relevant age specified above. If we learn that someone under the relevant age specified above is using the Platform, we will terminate that user's account."

Source: <https://www.tiktok.com/legal/terms-of-use?lang=en>

Service: **YouTube**

Age: **13**

#### Important note:

YouTube is a Google product. If you visit YouTube's Terms of Service in Norwegian (1), you will be referred to Google's Terms of Services (2). In the Norwegian text, it is made clear that you, as the parent, carry the responsibility when allowing your child to use the service.

"Find your country's age requirement

For all countries not listed below, 13 is the minimum age to manage your own Google Account.

[Norway is not listed]

Note: These requirements may not be applicable to G Suite users, including accounts in G Suite for Education domains." (2)

Source:

(1) <https://www.youtube.com/t/terms>

(2) <https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/1350409>

Service: **WhatsApp**

Age: **16**

#### Important note:

"How WhatsApp Works With The Other Facebook Companies. WhatsApp is one of the Facebook Companies. WhatsApp works and shares information with the other Facebook Companies to receive services like infrastructure, technology, and systems that help us provide and improve WhatsApp and to keep WhatsApp and the Facebook Companies safe and secure. (...)"

"About Our Services

**Age.** If you live in a country in the European Region, you must be at least 16 years old to use our Services or such greater age required in your country to register for or use our Services. If you live in any other country except those in the European Region, you must be at least 13 years old to use our Services or such greater age required in your country to register for or use our Services. In addition to being of the minimum required age to use our Services under applicable law, if you are not old enough to have authority to agree to our Terms in your country, your parent or guardian must agree to our Terms on your behalf."

Source: <https://www.whatsapp.com/legal/>

## Gamer Chat Client

The dangers you may wish to consider as a parent when it comes to these services are the same as with any other audio chat options. Minors may be exposed to racial slurs and swearing, which may be common in some gaming communities, and even provocative dialogue (e.g. flirting and cat-calling) on the public channels which anyone can join and use to chat in games. Conversations can quickly escalate in certain types of games and verbal abuse and bullying are not uncommon. If your child is not recording every minute of his or her gameplay, such incidents are impossible to prove. On the other hand, recording other people without their consent is illegal. The only protection your child would have in these cases is a block or ignore button. However, by then, the damage may have already been done.

Service: **Discord**

Age: **13**

“Discord's Terms of Service require people to be over a minimum age to access our app or website, so we are introducing a system to verify that users satisfy that minimum age requirement. We do this to keep our users safe and ensure they don't encounter material that's not appropriate for them.”

Please note, that in 21 European countries, the age requirement for minors to use Discord may be as high as 16+. This may be especially important for you to consider, as GIS is an international community. Please see the link below for more information.

Source: <https://support.discord.com/hc/en-us/articles/360040724612-Why-is-Discord-asking-for-my-birthday->

## Games

Please be aware that newer games will always indicate an age rating.

Be mindful of the fact that the descriptors of the age rating may not be in alignment with what you consider appropriate for your child. For example, a game rated 12, may still contain sexual references. (See World Of Warcraft below.)

Further, consider, that regardless of the age limit, minors cannot be held accountable for their actions online and every EULA will state that you, as the parent/caretaker are responsible for the online activities your child engages in while using the service.

Finally, by registering an account for your child, you may give permission to companies to monitor, record and store the activities and user habits of your child, as well as sell that data to multiple third parties. For example, Microsoft would receive such permissions in the

case of a Minecraft account, and applications downloaded from the AppStore or the Google Play store may send data to Facebook and other third parties.

Game: **Minecraft**

Age: **10**

When it comes to Minecraft, you must register a Mojang account. However, Terms of Use, as well as Privacy Policy will be managed by Microsoft.

“MOJANG PRIVACY POLICY<sup>[1]</sup>

We have now adopted the privacy policy of our owners, Microsoft. Please find full details of the new policy here.” (1)

“4. Using the Services & Support.

a. Microsoft account.

- iii. Kids and Accounts. By using the Services, you represent that you have either reached the age of “majority” where you live or have valid parent or legal guardian consent to be bound by these Terms. If you do not know whether you have reached the age of majority where you live, or do not understand this section, please ask your parent or legal guardian for help and consent before you create a Microsoft account. If you are the parent or legal guardian of a minor who creates a Microsoft account, you and the minor accept and agree to be bound by these Terms and are responsible for all use of the Microsoft account or Services, including purchases, whether the minor’s account is now open or created later.” (2)

Source:

(1) <https://account.mojang.com/terms#privacy>

(2) <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/servicesagreement>

Game: **Fortnite**

Age: **12**

“Based on the research, Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12. PEGI have already stated that it is due to the frequent scenes of mild violence. It means that Fortnite is not suitable for person under 12 years of age. However, PEGI rating only takes into account the game, so in voice or text chat on screen, the players still be exposed to swearing and offensive language from the strangers.”

Source: <https://www.fortnite-2fa.com/fortnite-age-requirement-recommendation-age-limit/>

Game: **Overwatch**

Age: **12**

“1. The Platform.

A. The Blizzard Account.

- v. Subject to the laws of your country of residence, minor children may utilize an Account established by their parent or legal guardian. In the event that you permit your minor child or legal ward (collectively, your “Child”) to use an Account on the Platform, you hereby agree to this Agreement on behalf of yourself and your Child, and you understand and agree that you will be responsible for all uses of the Account by your Child whether or not such uses were authorized by you.” (1)

“This game has been rated PEGI 12 for depictions of non-realistic looking violence towards human-like characters. Not suitable for persons under 12 years of age.” (2)

Source:

(1) <https://www.blizzard.com/en-gb/legal/08b946df-660a-40e4-a072-1fbde65173b1/blizzard-end-user-license-agreement>

(2) [https://pegi.info/search-pegi?q=overwatch&op=Search&filter-age%5B%5D=&filter-descriptor%5B%5D=&filter-publisher=&filter-platform%5B%5D=&filter-release-year%5B%5D=&page=1&form\\_build\\_id=form-xfmK1KIRaa4xaZQnylT6T1jeHTNbAmKasXIBeeZDmH4&form\\_id=pegi\\_search\\_form](https://pegi.info/search-pegi?q=overwatch&op=Search&filter-age%5B%5D=&filter-descriptor%5B%5D=&filter-publisher=&filter-platform%5B%5D=&filter-release-year%5B%5D=&page=1&form_build_id=form-xfmK1KIRaa4xaZQnylT6T1jeHTNbAmKasXIBeeZDmH4&form_id=pegi_search_form)

Game: **World Of Warcraft**

Age: **12**

“This is a massively multiplayer online (MMO) role-playing game set in the imaginary world of Azeroth. Players complete quests in order to “level up” their characters, while gaining powers and better weapons/armour/accessories along the way. Quest objectives sometimes involve using magic and hand-to-hand combat to defeat various creatures, enemy soldiers, and occasionally other characters such as innocent villagers. Some attacks can result in splashes of blood or small bursts of flesh and bone falling to the ground. Certain quests require the player to drink alcohol, resulting in the character’s impaired vision (blurry screen, seeing pink elephants) and movement. Players can interact with scantily clad characters, listen to provocative dialogue (e.g., “Is that a mana wyrm in your pocket, or are you just happy to see me?”), or view sexually suggestive dance routines performed by elves and other player-characters. One quest requires players to search for specific creatures among a landscape covered with piles of faeces. The words “a\*s,” “bastard,” and “b\*tch” can be heard in the dialogue.”

Source: [https://www.igdb.com/games/world-of-warcraft/age\\_rating](https://www.igdb.com/games/world-of-warcraft/age_rating)

Game: **Clash Of Clans**

Age: **13**

In the case of Clash Of Clans, you have to be aware that, like in the case of any app distributed through an application store (e.g. AppStore or Google Play), the companies distributing the games have access and rights to use your child’s data in accordance with their own policies. Further, the company that owns the game, Supercell Games in the case of Clash of Clans, may also have additional policies in place. You may wish to read up on these policies to ensure your child’s safety.

“Under our Terms of Service users of our games (Clash of Clans, Boom Beach, Hay Day, Clash Royale, Brawl Stars) must be at least 13 years of age. Although the graphical content of the games may be suitable for younger audiences, there are multiple reasons for responsible developers to apply a minimum age of 13. Some of these reasons are in-app purchases, privacy and the fact that all of our games have a chat functionality.”

Source: <https://supercell.com/en/parents/>

Game: **Fifa 20**

Age: **13**

“1. EA Account

You must be at least 13 years of age (or such other minimum age as is applicable in your country of residence) to create an EA Account. If you are aged between the relevant minimum age and 18 (or the age of majority where you live), you and your parent or guardian must review this Agreement together. Parents and guardians are responsible for the acts of children under 18 years of age when using EA Services. EA recommends that parents and guardians familiarize themselves with parental controls on devices they provide their child.”

Source: <https://tos.ea.com/legalapp/WEBTERMS/US/en/PC/>

Game: **Roblox**

Age: **18**

“1. Acceptance of Terms

A. Legal Agreement.

(...) If you do not agree to all these policies, rules and the Terms, you may not use the Service. In order to agree to these Terms, you need to (1) be 18 or older, or have your parent or guardian’s consent to agree to the Terms, and (2) have the power to enter a binding contract with us and not be barred from doing so under any applicable laws.”

Please note that Roblox is actually many games in one, and the community can create games using the game editor. These games can be shared with the community. Roblox should not be considered as a standalone game. Some games may promote the use of guns and violence against players of the opposing team. Some games may even promote criminal behaviour, where the objective is to break in and enter with the intent to steal certain objects. By its nature, Roblox is a social game, and players often interact with each other through voice chat, using third party applications. (See Discord.)

Source: <https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/115004647846-Roblox-Terms-of-Use>