תקנות of the Lakewood Mosdos 5765/5766

Safeguarding the Future Generation

Introduction

During these last days preceding the ימים נוראים every אחד עהרליכע is looking for זכותים to be זוכה בדין. "סור מרע ועשה טוב", we are commanded by דוד המלך and indeed, unfortunately, we do not have to look far to find the סור מרע which is incumbent upon us at this hour. What greater זכות can we hope to bring with us to the ימי הדין than the safeguarding of our precious children from the dangers of the Internet. One innocent glance by an inquisitive youngster at the טומאהדיק offerings of this כלי משחית is enough to jeopardize a whole childhood of חינוך. The unique opportunity at hand to protect the קדושה of our children is one that we must seize and embrace.

Understanding the תקנות

Everyone understands that Internet access in a home office is dangerous, and that strict guidelines must be implemented to keep the Internet inaccessible to children. What many people do not realize is that children raised in today's technology–saturated environment are often familiar with simple methods of accessing the Internet on cell phones, Palm Pilots, or regular home computers etc. This has become a real danger, and, as research tells us, it will soon become a serious crisis if guidelines are not set. Hence, the objective of the תקנות is to eliminate, as much as possible, the possibility of children accessing the Internet, ואולי ירחם.

הנהלה of the אחריות

Menahalim and Menahalos carry the awesome responsibility of safeguarding their Talmidim/Talmidos from any physical or רוחניותדיקע danger. The Gedolim of ארץ ישראל and America have ruled that Talmidim/Talmidos who have any possible access to the Internet, besides for being in serious jeopardy themselves, pose a real danger to the נשמות of their classmates and friends. The Gedolim have therefore instructed the Menahalim and Menahalos of Lakewood to implement the attached תקנות. They have clearly mandated that, unfortunately, it is the obligation of the Menahalim and Menahalos to dismiss Talmidim/Talmidos from their Mosdos, sometimes even permanently, in the event of a breach of these תקנות. This is regrettably the only way to keep innocent children safe from the horrible dangers of the Internet.

Minimal תקנות

The Gedolim have clearly stated that the attached תקנות are the minimum that Mosdos should implement. Each Menahel and Menaheles is encouraged to make additional תקנות that can provide a better שמירה for their Talmidim/Talmidos from the dangers of the Internet and the other dangers that computer usage poses to Talmidim/Talmidos (e.g. viewing of improper CDs and DVDs). In the same vein families are encouraged to restrict their children's access to computers above and beyond the תקנות set by their Mosad.

Message from the Menahalim / Menahalos

We are confident that the חשובע parents of our Talmidim/Talmidos will view these תקנות as a manifestation of the indescribable אהבה and concern that our Gedolim have for every child of our beautiful קהילה. During the ימי הסליחות we beseech the רבש"ע for רחמי שמים with the plea of עשה למען תשב"ר שלא חטאו. By doing our part in protecting our children from חטא, may we be זוכה to ישועות and נחמות-...למען תנוקות של בית רבן.

Takanos of the Lakewood Mosdos תשס"ו

Section A

I. Computers With Internet Access:

Introduction:

- Many children (and adults) have fallen prey to the immoral lures that are present on the Internet, and their lives have been destroyed. Our גדולים have therefore set forth the following תקנות restricting Internet use in the home.
- Currently available filtering and restriction systems do not provide adequate protection and therefore the following תקנות apply even in regard to computers with filtered or restricted Internet access.
- Although ineffective as a primary safeguard, it is strongly recommended that parents implement a filtering or restriction method compatible with their needs wherever possible.

תקנות:

1. Parents may not have Internet in the home unless it is לצורך פרנסה, and they have obtained a written אישור from one of the designated Rabbonim. This pertains to businesses in basements etc. as well. (See appendix for list of designated Rabbonim and procedure for applying for an אישור.) This Takanah pertains as well to an Internet connection used solely for e-mail.
2. "E-mail only" installations such as YeshivaMail may be used provided that a password protected firewall allowing access for e-mail only is installed.
3. Talmidim/Talmidos are forbidden to use any computer that has access to the Internet even for non-Internet use. The obligation on parents to enforce this *under all circumstances* must be treated with utmost seriousness.
4. Wherever possible, a computer with Internet access should be located in a room that is totally inaccessible to children.
5. If the computer must be in a room that is accessible to children, the computer must be in a locked cabinet when not in use.
6. Children may never see the Internet in use.
7. Upon stepping away from a computer with Internet access a parent must manually invoke a password protected screen saver. Additionally, computers running current versions of Windows must have the password protected screen saver configured to activate automatically after a designated amount of idle time. For older versions of Windows, a program such as "Desktop Lock" by Toplang Software or "Spy Lock 3.0" by Spytech must always be active. This is in order to ensure that the computer is never inadvertently left "unlocked". Parents must carefully protect the secrecy of the "unlock" password and not use passwords that are common or simple to guess. It is recommended to change passwords regularly.

It must be stressed that these תקנות do not entirely eliminate the danger that the Internet poses to children, and therefore the צבור is urged to refrain from having Internet in the home even when it is לצורך פרנסה.

II. Palm Pilots, PDAs, Hand-Held Computers and Hand-Held Game Units (1):

תקנה:

A תלמיד may not use any of the above devices if they have wireless or WIFI capability. (See appendix.)
Note: Many of the current models possess this capability.

According to the הוראה of the גדולים, children of families that fail to comply with the above תקנות (Section A) will unfortunately have to be expelled from all Lakewood מוסדות.

III. <u>Cell Phones</u>

תקנות:
1. The only cell phones that may be *designated* for the use of Talmidim/Talmidos are those which cannot access the Internet. (See appendix for list of cell phones which cannot access the Internet.)
2. Talmidim/Talmidos may not use a cell phone, even temporarily, that is presently signed up for Internet access.

אזהרה:
Text Messaging and the calling of "non-kosher" numbers has ר"ל been a source of ruin to many Talmidim/Talmidos. Therefore, any usage of a cell phone by a Talmid/Talmidah should be closely monitored.

IV. <u>Palm Pilots, PDAs, Hand-Held Computers and Hand-Held Game Units (2):</u>

תקנה:
A Talmid/Talmidah may not use any of the above devices if they have Blue-Tooth capability. (See appendix.)
Note: Many of the current models possess this capability.

V. <u>Computers Without Internet Access:</u>

Introduction:

Computers that *supposedly* have no Internet access can in many cases be easily connected to the Internet. The software is free. The hardware either comes standard on late model computers or can be easily and inexpensively purchased. Then, a regular home phone line, a neighbor's wireless network, or any cell phone that can connect to the Internet is all that is needed to connect a home computer to the Internet.

תקנה:
1. Any computer used by Talmidim/Talmidos must have password protected software that prevents connection to the Internet. (See appendix for details.) Parents must carefully protect the secrecy of the passwords and not use passwords that are common or simple to guess.

2. Being that the above Takanah cannot fully safeguard a computer from internet access it is strongly advised that any computer accessible to Talmidim/Talmidos be located in an area that is visible to parents.

   The Gedolim have clearly stated that the attached Takanos are the minimum that Mosdos should implement. Each Menahel and Menaheles is encouraged to make additional Takanos that can provide a better שמירה for their Talmidim/Talmidos.

It will be up to the discretion of the Hanhalah of each Mosad whether to allow children of families that do not comply with the above תקנות (Section B) to remain in the Mosad.

Note: All Takanos are subject to periodic review and update.

Appendix to the Takanos

Contents

1. A list of designated Rabbonim for obtaining an אִישׁוּר.

2. Instructions for obtaining an appointment or Psak by mail from a designated Rav.

3. A glossary of some of the technical terms necessary for understanding the Takanos.

4. A list of cell phones that cannot access the Internet.

Designated Rabbonim

This list is not final and may be updated occasionally.

Horav Y. Berman	Horav S. Blech	Horav N. Eisenstein
Horav G. Finkel	Horav Y. Forscheimer	Horav S. Gissinger
Horav B. Halpern	Horav M. C. Kahan	Horav S. M. Katz
Horav Y. Lazevnik	Horav A. C. Lieberman	Horav M. S. Luria
Horav M Mintz	Horav Y. D. Neischloss	Horav H. Perl
Horav M. Rabinowitz	Horav M. Reich	Horav Y. Y. Rottenberg
Horav A Sorscher	Horav A. Spitzer	Horav M. Yardley
	Horav Y. Zimbal	

Appointments and Applications

Beginning after רֹאשׁ הַשָּׁנָה a special office will be in operation to assist the Tzibur in the application for אִישׁוּרִים. To obtain an appointment with a designated Rav or to request an application for a Psak by mail, please call 732-901-0270 and choose one of the three following options.

1. An appointment with a specific Rav on the list.

2. An appointment with the first available Rav.

3. An application to obtain a Psak by mail. (You will have an option on the form to specify whether you would like it to be reviewed by a specific Rav or by the first available Rav.)

Upon being prompted, please *clearly* state your name, address, telephone number and the names of Mosad/Mosdos for which you requesting an אִישׁוּר.

Please note that while an appointment must be requested before returning your Disclosure Form to the Mosad, the Rabbonim will not begin seeing people until after סוכּוֹת. IY"H after יוֹם טוֹב you will receive an application in the mail or you will be contacted to confirm a time for your appointment.

Important: *The confidentiality of callers will be strictly protected.*

Technical Glossary

If you are not familiar with computer networking and the Internet please read the following comments on some common computer terms.

Note: A number of information nights (for men and for ladies separately) will IY"H be held after סוכות to further clarify the technical aspects of the Takanos to the Tzibur.

1. Internet

The Internet is a **publicly accessible worldwide network of computers**. It is the interconnection of thousand of large and small networks around the globe. All that is needed is a regular phone line, cable connection or WiFi connection to attach to this network. In other words, the Internet refers to the ability to share what is on computers almost anywhere in the world, with almost anyone in the world. In many cases you have no idea who the person or group is that owns the computers whose information you are viewing, and to whom you are showing information. By using WiFi or Bluetooth, many models of palms, hand-held computers, and hand-held games can also connect to the Internet. This means we have a level of easy exposure to undesirable information that is unprecedented in our history.

2. Computer Network

Any collection of computers connected in such a way that allows them to *share* data, hardware, and software. The connection can be with cables, wires, or even radio-waves (see WiFi below). A simple example of computers sharing on a network is the sending and receiving (copying) of information like email, family pictures, word processing documents, excel spreadsheets, etc. But, the sharing can be much more amazing. Computers on a network can be thought of, almost, as if they were one machine. As an example, if a computer is attached to a network, it may be possible to play (hear and watch) on your computer a CD located on a totally different computer no where in sight.

A network is not limited to connecting just computers. Certain models of cellular phones, palm pilots, hand-held computers, and hand-held games can be networked amongst themselves and with computers. Then they could all share data and even hardware.

3. WiFi

WiFi is an acronym for "Wireless Fidelity". WiFi is is the popular term used for networking devices via high frequency radio waves over fairly long distances without the need for any type of physical cabling or wiring. The device (computer, hand-held computer, palm, or hand-held game) using WiFi to connect to a network can be many miles away from the source of the radio signal. This means WiFi allows connection to a network even if the network is not in you neighborhood.

4. Bluetooth

Bluetooth is a nickname for technology that allows low-cost, short-range (30-300 ft) radio links between PCs, mobile PCs, mobile phones, regular phones and connectivity to the Internet. Bluetooth allows any of these devices to communicate wirelessly with each other automatically as if they were already connected on a network via a regular cable. Bluetooth will very soon replace traditional cables and infra-red connections. For instance, a single Bluetooth enabled palm is capable making phone calls, synchronizing data with desktop computers, sending and receiving faxes, and sending documents and pictures to a printer by connecting to a phone or computer that has Bluetooth capability.

5. Password protected software that prevents connection to the Internet

There are various types of software that one can run on a computer that prevent it from being able to connect to the Internet. At the current time, research and development is being conducted by local technicians to present the Tzibur with the cheapest and most suitable options. Right after יום טוב the Tzibur will be presented with their findings.

List of Cell Phones That Cannot Access the Internet

Sprint	Verizon	Cingular/T Mobile
Nokia 6016i	LG VX3300	Nokia 1100
Nokia3585i	LG VX3200	
Nokia3588i	Nokia 6015	
Samsung A 560		
Samsung N200		
Sanyo SCP 200		

Note: Not all models are available in company stores but may be obtained in other authorized retail stores.

DISCLOSURE FORM #1

- Please fill in and sign the Disclosure Form and return it to the school office in an envelope marked "Menahel/Menaheles" before יום כפור. Parents must return the Disclosure Form in order for their children to be accepted to school after סוכות.
- Parents who have a computer with Internet access must request an appointment with one of the designated Rabbonim before returning the Disclosure Form. (See appendix to Takanos for list of Rabbonim.)
- Those who have a computer at home will receive Disclosure Form #2 after סוכות with an allowance of ample time to arrange for compliance with the Takanos (installing protective software, obtaining an אישור, etc.).

_____   _____
      Family Name   First Name of Parent

_____
         Address

Check one:

❑ I do not have a computer in my home.

❑ I have a computer in my home. I don't have a computer with Internet access.

❑ I have a computer in my home accessed *only* to an e-mail server (e.g. YeshivaMail).

❑ I have a computer in my home that is presently accessed to the Internet, but, in compliance with the Takanos, I will terminate my current service and obtain "e-mail only" service (e.g. YeshivaMail).

❑ I have a computer with Internet access and have called the central office to request an appointment to receive an אישור.

I have read the attached Takanos and pledge to strictly adhere to them. I am aware that non-compliance with the Takanos may result in suspension or dismissal of my children from school.

Signature (father) _____   Date _____

Signature (mother) _____