 BILLINGSHURST YOUTH F.C 

Any queries on this policy should be directed to: Chairman or Club Welfare Officer

Billingshurst Youth Football Club understands that everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play.

Coaches, club officials, managers and others in a position of trust need to act responsibly both on and off the field and this includes the use of electronic communications and social media. This should also apply to parents and carers of youth players.

Social media can be, when appropriate, an effective tool. Billingshurst Youth FC expects members to use social media in a respectful and responsible manner. Social media should not be used to insult, present offensive or inappropriate content or to misrepresent the club or any member of Billingshurst Youth FC or the external football community.

Definition Social media refers to all networking sites such as (but not limited to):

Facebook

Twitter

Instagram

YouTube

And covers any way these services are accessed.

We also use this policy to remind that the use of emails and text communications should be appropriately managed.

In conjunction with this document, the following FA Respect Best Practice Guidance documents can be accessed on the Sussex FA website.

Rights and Responsibilities

When using social media, members are expected to ensure that they:

Use appropriately and ONLY in respect of club matters - Do not use emails, texts or social media to send personal messages of a non-football nature to club members, children and young persons

Ensure that only official Club Social media sites are used – this is because an assigned member can monitor them and immediately request that anything that is deemed as offensive be removed.

Respect the rights and confidentiality of others and the club - Photo permission must always be sought and included on our Player registration Forms for parents to acknowledge. Members must not bully, intimidate, abuse, harass or threaten others or make defamatory comments. Members must not use offensive or threatening language or resort to personal abuse towards each other or post content that is hateful, threatening, pornographic, racist, abusive or incites violence against others. Members must not post content that harms the reputation and good standing of those within the club community. Coaches/Managers and all Members must not accept requests to join social media groups from those who are under 18.

Parental/Carer Guidance - Please ensure that you know who the Child Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if you have any concerns about the content of the club social media or website. Ensure that you are aware of how coaches, managers and officials should communicate with your child. Ensure your child understands that they should tell someone they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or if they’ve been asked not to tell their parent/carer or coach about the communication. Inform the Child Welfare Officer as soon as possible if you or your child receives any inappropriate communication from any person associated with the club (and save the communication). Parents/carers must not reveal any information they may have received about a player. Parents/carers must not use social media to speak ill of the club or volunteers or to comment on players, training or matches

Player’s Guidance Players must NOT - Post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening or racist. Post personal comments in relation to the club officials, players, opposition team members, match officials or any family members of those above. Give out personal details online including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access information. Invite any adult involved with the club to become your friend online or accept them as a friend on any social network site. Use inappropriate language

Any breach of this policy will be considered by the committee and will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

If a member or parent/carer feels that they have been subjected to any form of social media abuse or any inappropriate use of texts and emails, please report to either the Club Welfare Officer or Club Chairman.

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