



Social Media Policy

Feb 2023

Social media is changing the way we communicate. Pannal Ash Junior Football Club understands everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. This policy has been developed to inform our Coaches, club officials, players, volunteers, parents and others in a position of trust in football the need to act responsibly both on and off the field and this includes the use of electronic communications.

The club should:

1. Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players or referees and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.
2. Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications. Harassment is any offensive conduct based on a person`s race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, religion or any other status identified by The Equality Act 2010.
3. Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
4. If the club maintains a website, blog, chat room, video-sharing site, bulletin board or other social media that promotes their club, administrators should remember they are responsible for reviewing responses to online posts and resolving any concerns about the propriety of the responses before they are posted.
5. If a blogger or any other online participant posts an inaccurate, accessory or negative comment about the club or anyone associated with the club, do not respond to the post and contact The Club Secretary for guidance/advice.

Parent Guidance

1. Know who the club Child Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if you have any concerns about the content of club web pages or in relation to the welfare of your child
2. Ensure you are aware of how coaches and other members of the club should communicate with your child.
3. Show an interest in the communications between the club, you and your child. Open communication about club activities/issues often means that concerns are picked up early and issues can be resolved more easily.
4. Familiarise yourself with FA guidance for clubs in relation to websites, text messaging and social networking sites



Pannal Ash Junior Football Club



Charity Number: 1158686

5. Understand the club's communication practices. If the club uses text messages or emails as a source of communication you may request to be copied into anything sent to your child
6. Ensure your child understands that they should tell someone that they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or when they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer or coach about the communication
7. Remember as a parent/carer of a child at the club you and your child are responsible for and need to abide by the club policy.
8. Inform the clubs Child Welfare Officer as soon as possible if you or your child receives any inappropriate communication from any member of staff/volunteer or other person associated with the club or other club and save the communication
9. Parents must not use social media to speak ill of the club or any staff or associates or to comment on players, training or matches.

Player's Guidance

Players must not:

1. Post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, or racist as this would go against football club's rules and could also be against the law. Or post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, players, opposition team member(s), or any family members of those above.
2. Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with coaches / volunteer(s), players or opposition teams.
3. Give out personal details online or offline including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access to people you don't know well.
4. Delete inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation
5. Use inappropriate language.

A breach of this policy will be considered by the committee.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the police where Pannal Ash Junior Football Club is obliged to do so.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or banning from Pannal Ash Junior Football Club.

Everyone must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by the police over which Pannal Ash Junior Football Club will have no control.



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