

# Marine Netball Club

# Social Media Policy

DECEMBER 2021

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## 1. Purpose and Scope

**Marine Netball Club (MNC)** recognise the range of technologies used to interactively share, create and discuss issues and content.

This Policy provides guidance to help them understand the acceptable standards of use of social media in netball. It sets out best practice designed to assist everyone in understanding what the potential risks are in using social media and how these can be managed.

The pace of change in technology means that it is not possible to identify a definitive list of all forms of social media which this Policy applies to. This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the Codes of Conduct.

## 2. Definitions

**Social media** is the collective of online communications and media channels dedicated to community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and collaboration via a range of technologies such as desktop, laptop, tablets, smartphones and other internet enable devices. Websites and applications dedicated to forums, micro blogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation, and wikis are among the different types of social media and examples of social media platforms include, but are not limited to, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram.

“**Young person**” is used to refer to any person below the age of 18.

## 3. Usage

Whilst we as a Club use social media to positively promote itself and the achievements of the Club and its members and it has a responsibility not to insult, slander, abuse or create risks to anyone’s personal safety must be borne in mind. This Policy seeks to assist in knowing how to achieve that balance.

## 4. Good Practice Guidance

As a general principle, the Club has a webpage/profile which is used for their netball involvement and they keep their personal identity, pages and profile separate. Whilst there will always be grey lines between the two, having separate online identities should assist in focusing the mind on what is and what is not appropriate content and usage, before anything is posted.

The use of social media to target individuals, whether for grooming or the increasing incidences of cyber bullying, has created a set of risks to vulnerable people which is a real challenge to manage. Everyone is creating potential risk to themselves when they post personal information. The Club will not post any such information on our social media pages.

### **Texting/e-mail**

Probably the most commonly used form of social media, texting is a great way to send fast, cheap communications. Texts are more personal and private than other forms of social media and for this reason there is more associated potential risk to young people and adults at risk.

One to one contact without a parent/carer copied in to texts between a coach and a young person is inappropriate. The Club should seek parental consent at the start of the season for text communications, with anyone under the age of 16. If this is given, clubs should use group messaging, with the Club Safeguarding Officer and any parent who requests it, copied in. Using this method, there should be no need for any adult to have individual contact with a young person in the club in the normal course of things. If there is an emergency which means that an individual young person needs to be contacted, the Club Safeguarding Officer or the parent/carer should be copied in.

Over the age of 16, parents should still be made aware of the Club’s practice and this Policy.

The Club should keep a copy of the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of their members, by text/e-mail group and ensure that these are held securely and not used for any other purpose. The messages sent should always make it clear what the purpose of the communication is and contain the name of the organisation, not just a mobile number.

There should be a minimum number of administrators with access to the group and contact details. A minimum of 2 is recommended.

### **Social networks**

Social networks are the communities which develop on media applications, such as Facebook and twitter.

Adults and young persons should not be “friending” or “following” each other, outside of the netball relationship. Communications for netball purposes should be through sites/identities which are public and managed by the club. This applies to adults in a position of trust as well as to the adults who meet young people through netball.

*For example*, if a coach receives a friend request from a young person who they have met at a training session, they should decline. If the Club has a page or identify which allows communication via a public forum, this would be acceptable, provided the site is secure and there are no private messages being sent or received.

It is accepted that some parents/carers are friends with their children, to monitor the material posted and seen by them. If the adult then accepts their child’s friends, this is not something which Marine Netball has any jurisdiction over. Everyone needs to be mindful that:

### **Social media must not be used to insult, belittle or criticise other teams, players, officials or staff of Marine Netball.**

Expressing your opinion is fine, being rude in the way you express it or expressing discriminatory views IS NOT. Anyone who has posted an offensive message or image is advised to remove the comment as soon as possible, to reduce its impact.

The speed and variety in the development of social media forums, means that posts can be generated rapidly and spread to a wider audience in a very short space of time. All members, connected participants, staff and members of the public can and should report any misuse of social media to the Club Secretary or CSO, so that appropriate action can be taken to maintain the high standards of behaviour expected within the Club and the sport of netball.

### **Twitter**

When using Twitter or similar tools, reposting other people’s comments or posts can be taken as you are adopting the views they have expressed and you would be accountable for the content.

Comments made should clearly be attributable to the individual and not to the Club.

## **5. Setting up Club Webpages**

When setting up Club Webpages Marine Netball Club will retain ownership and administration rights over that site. No one individual should have exclusive ownership or administration rights, including the Chair. The CSO should be informed about any issues. All these people should display good practice for protecting children from the potential risks of social media.

The primary purpose of the site is for promoting the Club and the sport of netball and for communicating between members of the club. Privacy settings should be set so that members of the public cannot contact individuals from the club by first establishing a link with the club, via their webpage.

Additional links between the pages of an adult and a young person, should not be made.

Photos and tagging should be used with consideration for the safety implications which these bring.

The Club will provide their members with guidance on the use of the Club site and issue their members with Acceptable Use Agreements, which the parent/carer of a young person also signs. A template Acceptable Use Agreement is appended to this policy.

## 6. Reporting Concerns

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, as is creating and maintaining the high standards of behaviour expected of people in the sport of netball. For these reasons, everyone is encouraged to report concerns of misuse or inappropriate usage of social media to the Club Secretary, Chair and CSO.

The first point of contact will usually be the Club Safeguarding Officer, or the Chair of the Club.

Marine Netball Club's Chair is Allison Hamer and Marine Netball Club's CSO (Club Safeguarding Officer) is Denyse Croucher

Whilst the law does not move as fast as technology, there is legislation and government guidance which applies to social media usage, including:

- Malicious Communications Act 1988
- Protection from Harassment Act 2003
- Defamation Act 1996
- Data Protection Act 1998
- Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights
- Working Together 2013.


Prosecutions may be taken for comments/content posted on line.

*For example,* those which are offensive, incite hatred or are of an intimidating nature.

It should be noted that England Netball may also take Disciplinary Action against individuals using social media inappropriately.

## 7. Useful contacts

There are several organisations who can provide advice and guidance on internet safety and usage, which have been referred to in the development of this policy. They are great resources to reference for the most up to date guidance.

 <https://the.cpsu.org.uk>

 <https://saferinternet.org.uk>

 <https://www.ceop.police.uk>

# Marine Netball Club Social Media Acceptable Use Agreement

This Agreement is to be read by parents/carers and the young person, to ensure the obligations are understood before signing.

Marine Netball Club understands the importance of new technology for children and young people's development. However, we recognise that the relevant safeguards need to be put into place by sports clubs to ensure children and young people remain safe whilst online or using social media.

We ask all parents/carers to read the Marine Netball Club's Social Media Policy and discuss this policy with their child or the young people in their association ensuring they have understood the importance of the Policy and the expectations on them in relation to their use of social media.

Kindly sign and return this form to Marine Netball Club.

I understand that:

- ▶ I am responsible for my behaviour when using social media and texts relating to a member, connected participant or employee of Marine Netball club and the sport of netball, including anything re-posted and my use of language;
- ▶ I will not arrange to meet someone unless accompanied by a member of staff, parent or carer.
- ▶ I have read and understand the Marine Netball Social Media policy and understand that I may be subject to Disciplinary Action should I breach its usage guidance;
- ▶ I understand that my use of the internet and social media sites through Marine Netball Club can be monitored and logged and made available to the Club, England Netball and any external agencies involved with the regulation of internet usage;
- ▶ I will not post or give out any personal details, such as name, address, age and contact numbers, either of myself or any other person;
- ▶ I will not share my own or the club password with anyone;
- ▶ I will not arrange to meet anyone without the knowledge and consent of my parent/carer;
- ▶ I will not deliberately browse, download, access, send or post any material that could be offensive, threatening upsetting, bullying or illegal;
- ▶ I agree to report material, posts or contacts which I find upsetting or cause me concern;
- ▶ I understand that these rules are designed to keep me safe and if they are not followed my parents/carers may be contacted.

*We have read and discussed this policy and .....(name of young person) agrees to support the safe use of social media at Marine Netball Club*

Parent/carer's name.....

Parent/carer's signature.....

Young person's name .....

Young person's signature.....

Date.....

**Performance Athletes** may have a personal page/identify which relates to their netball play and consequently their identity will be known. They are reminded of the need not to provide additional personal details, whether of their own or another person, which could create a risk to themselves or another person.