

CHESTERFIELD TOWN FC

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Authors Dave Frow (Chair), Lindsay Siddall (Welfare Officer)

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1. Chesterfield Town Football Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person under the age of 18, by providing 'Best Practice' guidance whilst entrusted in its care.
2. Chesterfield Town Football Club acknowledges that officials, players and parents/carers may choose to communicate information that provides a messaging service through Social Networking sites. However, the use of 'Facebook', 'Twitter', 'YouTube' or other Social Networking sites, must be managed appropriately. It is against FA and Club rules to post comments that are or may be conceived as: - offensive, insulting, abusive, threatening, racist, harassment, homophobic or any other reference that may cause offence or harm to other members of Chesterfield Town Football Club, players officials and parents of **any** other club or comments that bring the Club into disrepute as a result. Any evidence of this will be brought before the Committee and dealt with accordingly.
3. Coaches, Managers, First Aiders, Referees or Officials are not recommended to use Social Networking sites as a source of communicating messages to team players under the age of 18, unless that member is a close relative. Club Officials, Referees, Managers, Coaches should NOT accept players under the age of 18 as 'friends'. *This not only safeguards the young person, but also the adult.*

PLEASE NOTE:

Only those aged 13 or above should be registered on 'Facebook'.

4. No Parent/Carer, Official, Manager, Coach, Medic or Referee should use any web based communication to contact children or young people involved in youth football or send personal messages (which could be misinterpreted). Any correspondence that might be entered into should only contain information relative to football activities, i.e.:
Cancellation of a match, amended times etc. All communication should be factual and non-derogatory and must only be sent to the parent/guardian.
5. Children and young people should be advised that any inappropriate communication from other club members (whether manager/coach, referee, parents/guardians or another young person) or members of other clubs, should be reported to their parent/guardian or Club Welfare Officer in the first instance and a record **MUST** be kept as evidence, should the matter be taken further. Evidence may be a print out, saved web page or similar in order for the inappropriate communication to be verified. Inappropriate behaviour via Social Networking Sites, texts etc. will be dealt with by the Club who may deem it necessary to report the matter to the internet service provider as routine.
6. Under FA, League and Club rules you **MUST NOT** post results (scores, scorers or state the result i.e "Win", "Won", "lost", "loose", "draw" etc) for mini soccer (U7-U11)
7. **ONLY** post pictures of **YOUR CHILD** and ensure no other children are in the background. Some children are protected and we have a duty of care to respect it.

GENERAL TIPS FOR BEST PRACTICE

1. Remember, items posted on social media sites can potentially be seen by thousands of people, not everyone will agree with what you write. It is also worth thinking about the impression you're creating, could the things you write or the comments you make post cause embarrassment to anyone? Anything you communicate online is there forever, even if it's deleted. Therefore what is said privately may, at some point, become public.
2. Ensure your privacy settings are set to the appropriate level. Usually found on your home page of your social media site. These can be set to restrict who can see your account and what information they can see.
3. Always save evidence of any cyber bullying you encounter, report it to your Internet Service Provider.
4. Be respectful - Set the tone for online messages and conversation by being polite, open and respectful. You must ensure that you respect people's confidentiality and do not disclose any information or the personal information of others.
5. Never disclose any personal information, for example phone numbers email addresses postal addresses. Always use the social media provider's inbox service.