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## COMMUNICATION POLICY

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### Our commitment

Electronic communication is essential for sharing club news and information with our members. Our communication will be timely, appropriate and related to Club business.

### What we will do

We use a range of electronic tools to communicate with our members.

Our communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

Refer to our Social Media Policy to address any issues arising from the use of social media.

Website Officer (non-committee position) is appointed to provide accountability and control over material published on our Club's website and the Publicity Officer responsibility for any related discussion groups or social media websites, such as Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.

### Website

- Our website will include current information on competitions, social events, Committee Members, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws as applicable.
- No offensive content or photos will be published.
- If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents and take care not to provide identifying information.
- We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

### Email

Committee members, coaches and team managers may use email to provide information about competition, training, club-sanctioned social events and other club business, however:

- email communication will be used about club/team matters and providing more information when it is required
- communication involving children will be directed through their parents.

### Social media websites

- We treat all social media postings, blogs, and status updates as public 'comment'.
- Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive club news and events.
- No personal information about our members will be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.
- No statements will be made that might bring our club into disrepute.
- Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from the site.

## What we ask you to do

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the club.

Electronic communication:

- should be restricted to club matters
- must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person
- must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person
- should respect and maintain the privacy of members
- must not bring the club into disrepute.

Coaches and others who work with children and young people must direct electronic communication through the child's parents.

## Non-compliance

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police.

In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g., Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) may be liable for defamation.