

HAZELWOOD SPORTS CLUB

Online Safety & Communication

POLICY

Agreed by the Executive Committee March 2025

Introduction

In today's digital age, online communication has become an integral part of our daily lives. At our sports club, we recognize the importance of online communication for staying connected, sharing information, and promoting our activities. However, we also recognize the potential risks and challenges that come with online communication, including cyberbullying, online harassment, and other online safety concerns.

To ensure that our online communication is safe, secure, and responsible, our sports club has developed an Online Safety and Communication Policy. This policy outlines our commitment to creating a positive and safe online environment for all members, visitors, coaches, officials, and volunteers who participate in our sports activities.

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines and expectations for online communication and behaviour, and to promote a culture of mutual respect, responsibility, and safety online. This policy covers all forms of online communication, including email, social media, messaging platforms, and any other digital platforms used for communication.

This policy includes guidelines on appropriate behaviour, privacy, security, and reporting procedures for any incidents of online harassment or bullying. We believe that by upholding the principles of this policy, we can create a safe and inclusive online community that promotes the values of our sports club.

We encourage all members and visitors to take the time to read and understand this policy, and to actively contribute to creating a positive and safe online environment for all. Together, we can promote responsible and safe online communication, and ensure that our sports activities are enjoyed by all participants in a safe and welcoming environment.

Policy

1. Hazelwood Sports Club values safe and respectful communication both online and offline. We expect all members to adhere to the following guidelines when using the internet or other forms of digital communication.

2. Members should use digital communication tools, such as email, social media, and messaging apps, in a responsible and respectful manner. This includes refraining from using abusive language, making threats, or engaging in any other form of harassment or bullying.

3. Members should not share personal information, such as home address, phone number, or financial details, with anyone online. This information should only be shared with trusted individuals or organizations through secure channels.

4. Members should not share or distribute inappropriate content, such as explicit images or videos, through digital communication tools. This behaviour is not only unacceptable but may also be illegal.

5. Members should be mindful of their online activity and how it reflects on the sports club. Any content shared or posted online that may reflect poorly on the club or its members may result in disciplinary action.

6. Members should report any suspicious or inappropriate online activity to a coach, staff member, or management immediately. This includes any attempts to contact members for suspicious reasons, such as phishing or fraud.

7. Hazelwood Sports Club reserves the right to monitor all online activity related to the club, including social media, email, and messaging apps. This is to ensure that members are adhering to the guidelines outlined in this policy.

8. Members should only communicate with other members or coaches through official channels provided by the club. This includes email addresses, messaging apps, or social media accounts that are specifically designated for club communication.

9. Any communication between coaches and minors must be done in a professional and appropriate manner. Coaches should not engage in any form of inappropriate behaviour or communication with minors, including any behaviour that could be perceived as grooming.

10. Any violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or termination of membership. We are committed to creating a safe and respectful environment for all members, both online and offline.