



Malpas & District Junior Football Club



Grounds: Malpas Sports Club, The Oxhays, Wrexham Road, Malpas, Cheshire
Bishop Heber High School, Farndon Community Field
www.malpasfc.co.uk

Policy for running a website or social media platform 23/24

The following policy is provided not as an obstacle but to support clubs and leagues to manage their safeguarding responsibilities effectively. It aims to ensure children, young people, coaches, referees and adults in a position of trust are not subjected to improper online behaviour or improper allegations. Malpas & District JFC Secretary will monitor the content of the website and social media platforms and bring any concerns to the attention of the Club Welfare Officer. They should have an understanding of both the technology used and of safeguarding. However, it would be expected that the named individual(s) will have attended The FA's Safeguarding Children Workshop. Web pages will be monitored on a weekly basis where possible. Clubs and leagues are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association and do not bring the Clubs name into disrepute.

It is against FA rules to post comments that are or maybe conceived as;

- Offensive
- Insulting
- Abusive
- Threatening
- Racist
- Discriminatory
- Any other reference that may cause offensive or harm to others Any such comment made on club or league websites and/or social media sites regarding officials may result in disciplinary action being taken in line with The FA's Disciplinary policies and procedures.
- Post photos of players under the age of 18 without explicit consent.
- It is also against the FA's rules to post match results for certain age-groups.

Comments made on websites and social media platforms that are threatening abusive or racist could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible for posting or hosting them. Comments made may attract libel claims and legal action through the civil courts if they are untrue or defamatory. Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and CWO to always tell an adult they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer about the communication. Clubs and leagues are strongly advised to adhere to the following Do's and Don'ts

Please note that the Club Welfare Officer must be informed of the creation of any new website or social media profile linked to the Club, before it becomes live.

Do:

- appoint an appropriate adult(s) to monitor the content of the website and social media platforms
- make sure everyone within your club knows who is responsible for monitoring the content of the club website and social media platforms and how to contact them apply the principles given within The FA's photography guidelines; Celebrating Football Thorough Photographs and Video
- place the CEOP, 'Report Abuse' app on your web site and the link to the www.ThinkUKnow.co.uk internet safety site provided by CEOP which gives highly effective and age appropriate advice to children, young people, parents and carers
- provide links to www.TheFA.com 'Staying Safe Online' pages
- Malpas & District Junior Football Club has made the decision not to host message boards, forums or blogs
- regularly monitor the content of the above and use The FA's Respect Codes of Conduct as a guide to acceptable behaviours both on and off field including behaviour online.

Don't:

- host children's or young people's details where they can be seen or used by others to contact them. Any details hosted should only be done with written parental/carers consent
- use tagging / links or other app / website functions to connect with players or anyone under the age of 18; or with private individual accounts for adults without their permission
- use personal Coaches' accounts to link, promote or tag to official club platforms
- place pictures of individuals on web pages or social media platforms without the express permission of parents/carers
- post any detail of individuals which may lead them to be identified e.g. school class/year, player profiles detailing personal information e.g. favourite foods, movies, teams etc.
- with regard to mini-soccer matches please remember there should be no information published that reveal the result to the reader.
- post or host items which may be considered to be hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, racist or discriminatory or otherwise may cause offence or harm to another or might incite such behaviour in others
- encourage comments on posts, and if possible disable this function.

SignedAndrew Harradine..... Chairman
..... Hannah Adamson . . . Club Welfare Officer

Agreed Date: 1st September 2023
Review Date: 31st August 2024

