



## **WORMLEY ROVERS FC SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

Wormley Rovers Football Club (the Club) believes that anyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard continues both on and off the field of play. Meaning that coaches, club officials, volunteers and others in a position of trust in football need to act responsibly both on and off the field, this includes the use of social media.

Clubs, and coaches as club officials, are responsible for ensuring all content shared on social media networks abides by the Rules and Regulations of The English Football League (EFL) and The Football Association (FA).

As Club we have official social media accounts that have been approved and are monitored by the committee, including the club welfare team, to ensure they are compliant with all relevant policies and procedures including ensure the safeguarding of our members. Social media platforms should not be used to post anything (specially player pictures) unless it has been approved in advance by Wormley Welfare.

The Club does not authorise the use of social media by individual teams without the approval of the committee.

### **1. Club officials (includes coaches and team admin reps) guidance:**

- 1.1 Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players, or referees and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.
- 1.2 Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications.
- 1.3 Harassment is any offensive conduct based on a person`s race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, religion, or any other status identified by The Equality Act 2010.
- 1.3 Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links.
- 1.4 When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
- 1.5 On our website, blog, chat room, video-sharing site, bulletin board or other social media that promotes our club, remember we are responsible for reviewing responses to online posts and resolving any concerns about the propriety of the responses before they are posted.
- 1.6 Do not accept as a friend, young players or any person employed or volunteering at the club who is U18 on social networking sites.

- 1.7 Do not share your own personal social networking sites with children or young people involved at the football club or ask them to be your 'friend'.
- 1.8 Do not contact children or young people known through football on social networking sites.
- 1.9 Do not post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, children, parent/guardian or opposition teams or any family members of those groups.
- 1.10 Do not delete inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation, escalate to Welfare immediately for an official follow up.

## **2. Parent guidance:**

- 2.1 Know who the club Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if they have any concerns about the content of club web pages in relation to the welfare of your child.
- 2.2 Understand the club's communication practices as set out in this document and ensure you are aware of how coaches, managers and other members of the club should communicate with their child.
- 2.3 Familiarise yourself with The Football League's guidance for clubs in relation to websites, text messaging and social networking sites.
- 2.4 Ensure your child understands that they should tell someone that they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or when they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer or coach about the communication.
- 2.5 Remember as a parent/carer of a child at the club you and your child are responsible for and need to abide by the club policy, The Football League Policy Guidance and The FA Rules and Regulations regarding comments that you place online about the club or club officials, The Football League, players, managers, match officials, opposing teams players or family members of any of those group.
- 2.6 Inform the club Welfare officers as soon as possible if you or your child receives any inappropriate communication from any member of staff/volunteer or other person associated with the club and save the communication.
- 2.7 Do not use social media to speak ill of the club or any staff or associates or to comment on players, training or matches.
- 2.8 Do not delete inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation, escalate to Welfare immediately for an official follow up.
- 2.9 Do not reveal information about training, fixtures, and contractual agreements etc using social media posts.

## **3. Player guidance:**

- 3.1 Do not post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, or racist as this would go against football club's rules and could also be against the law.
- 3.2 Do not post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, players, opposition team member(s), or any family members of those above.
- 3.3 Do not engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with staff / volunteer(s), players' opposition teams.
- 3.4 Do not give out personal details online including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access to people you don't know well offline.
- 3.5 Do not invite any adult involved with the club to become your friends online or accept them as a friend on any social network site. They have been told they must not to accept such invitations.
- 3.6 Do not use internet, web-based, phone or any other form of communication to send personal messages of a non-football nature to any member of staff/volunteer at the club.

#### **4. Breaches**

- 4.1 A breach of this policy will be reviewed by the club's committee and an investigation may be commenced in accordance with the Club's complaints procedure.
- 4.2 All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may be referred to the police where necessary.
- 4.3 Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or being removed from membership from Wormley Football Club.

Where a crime has been committed the police may commence an investigation.

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