



Newport (Salop) RUFC

Social Media Policy

Newport Rugby Club recognises blogs, networking sites, and other social media (collectively referred to as “social media”, defined below) as possible tools to support the Club’s goals and a means of communicating information with its membership. This policy applies to members when they participate in social media as a representative of the club or participation in social media at any time where members give the appearance of speaking on behalf of the Club or its affiliates; identify themselves as member of the Club or discuss the Club or its affiliates.

Members are responsible for the content they publish on social media and should use good judgment. They should be mindful that the things they say or do on social media are publically available and searchable and may be forever accessible, which can be then associated to Newport Rugby Club. Comments, expressions, and other postings on social media must be honest and respectful of others; respect confidential, personal, and proprietary information; and comply with applicable laws and Newport Rugby Club policies.

Participants should be aware that comments, which bring the game into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting, might lead to disciplinary action.

Comments that include a reference to a person’s ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability may attract a high disciplinary sanction.

Comments posted on social media can also attract civil and criminal action.

General guidance

- These are public forums, so treat them as such
- Individuals are strictly responsible for any posting on his/their account/s
- Re-posting or re-tweeting inappropriate content represents an endorsement of that content and can be actionable
- Do not use abusive, derogatory, vulgar or sexual language
- Do not criticise or imply bias in match officials
- At all times, exercise discretion and respect for clubs, players, fans and the game’s partners
- Deleting or apologising publicly for an improper posting does not prevent disciplinary action being taken
- Consider “protecting” Tweets and changing security/visibility of Facebook accounts

Committee Rights

The committee of Newport (Salop) RUFC reserve the right to require members of the club to cease and desist the use of any social media that bears the name, logos or symbols of the club, is otherwise associated with the club or that is used to discuss the business of the club. Such decisions will be taken at the sole discretion of the committee in circumstances where the committee have determined that such use of social media is not in the best interests of the club, in particular where the rights of club members may be infringed.

Safeguarding

The RFU's Safeguarding Policy advises against coaches having direct personal communication with children unless in exceptional circumstances and coaches and club officials should not communicate with children through social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter, nor should they be "friends" with children or comment on their status.

Definition

Social media definition: Online, electronic, or Internet media, tools, communities, and spaces for social interaction, sharing user generated content, or public or semi-public communication. Social media typically uses web-based technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogues. Social media can take many different forms, including internet forums, blogs & microblogs, online profiles, wikis, podcasts, pictures and video, email, text, instant messaging, music- sharing, and chat, to name just a few. Examples of social media include but are not limited to the following: Facebook, Instagram, Wikipedia, YouTube, Twitter, LinkedIn, Pinterest, WhatsApp and blogs.

Sanctions

Any breach of the social media policy will be taken very seriously, up to and including termination of membership.