



# CHIPSTEAD FOOTBALL CLUB

Formed 1936



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## SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

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## Chipstead Football Club supports The FA's Social Media Policy.

The FA's intention and responsibility is to safeguard children and young people involved in football. As with other leading world brands The FA uses Facebook, YouTube and Twitter as a way of getting messages across to the widest audience possible. Alongside the very beneficial aspects of modern communication technologies we must recognise that there are also increased risks to children and young people. These risks must be appropriately managed.

**Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play.**

Chipstead Football Club agrees to ensure safeguards are in place. Coaches, officials, referee mentors and those in a position of responsibility in clubs and leagues must ensure they communicate responsibly.

As recommended by the FA, Chipstead Football Club does not use texting as the primary method of communication between adults and child/young people in football.

Chipstead Football Club promotes the use of Team Apps or similar social networking groups to be set up in the name of the team/league/club and used explicitly by named members, parents and carers solely about football matters e.g. fixtures, cancellations and team selection. At no time should these be used for personal communications, 'banter' or comments.

Chipstead Football Club is responsible for ensuring all content hosted on our websites, social network areas and any associated message boards or blogs abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association. **If any Coach/Parent has something that they would like to post on the Chipstead Social Media pages please send all written content and/or photographs to Christina Rose, Social Media Officer - christinarose528@gmail.com.**

**Coaches should not post any Club information/match results/player profiles etc. on personal pages.**

Chipstead Football Club has appointed appropriate adults to monitor the content of our websites and social media pages. The posting of any content is limited to specifically appointed individuals. Chipstead FC has a Social Media Officer to perform this role – see details above.

Children and young people are advised by their coaches, parents/carers and CWO (Catherine O'Connell – Email: c.oconnell1999@gmail.com) 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.

## 1. The Club Should:

- a) Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players or referees and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.
- b) Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications. 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.
- c) Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
- d) Maintains their website or other social media that promotes their club, should remember they are responsible for reviewing any content for online posts and resolving any concerns about the propriety of the content before it is posted.
- e) If a blogger or any other online participant posts an inaccurate or negative comment about the club or anyone associated with the club, DO NOT RESPOND TO THE POST, contact The Club Secretary (Caroline Davies – Email: [carolinejdavies@gmail.com](mailto:carolinejdavies@gmail.com)) for guidance/advice.

## 2. Any Club Official Should Not:

- a) Use text or emails for sending pictures, jokes or other items of a personal nature or engage in any 'banter' or comments with or about children at the club.
- b) Use internet or web based mobile phones or other form of communications to send personal messages of a non-football nature to a child or young person.
- c) Respond to emails or texts from young people other than those directly related to club matters.

- d) Use language that is directly (or could be misinterpreted as being) racist, sexist, derogatory, threatening, abusive or sexualised in tone.
- e) Accept as a friend, young players or any person employed or volunteering at the club who is U18 on social networking sites.
- f) Share your own personal social networking sites with children or young people involved at the football club or ask them to be your 'friend'.
- g) Make contact with children or young people known through football outside of the football context on social networking sites.
- h) 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.
- i) Delete any inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.

### **3. Parental Guidance – Every Parent/Carer Should:**

- a) Know who the club Child Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if you have any concerns about the content of club web pages or in relation to the welfare of your child.
- b) Ensure you are aware of how coaches, managers and other members of the club should communicate with your child.
- c) Show an interest in the communications between the club, you and your child. Open communication about club activities/issues often means that concerns are picked up early and issues can be resolved more easily.
- d) Familiarise yourself with The Football League's guidance for clubs in relation to websites, text messaging and social networking sites.
- e) Understand the club's communication practices. If the club uses text messages or emails as a source of communication, you may request to be copied into anything sent to your child.
- f) Ensure your child understands that they should tell someone that they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or when they have been asked not to tell their parent/carer or coach about the communication.
- g) 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 League, players, managers, match officials, opposing teams players or family members of any of those groups.

- h) Inform the club Child Welfare Officer (Catherine O'Connell) 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.
- i) Parents must not use social media to speak ill of the club or any club officials or associates or to comment on players, training or matches.
- j) Parents must not reveal any information they may have received about another player.

#### 4. **All Players Must Not:**

- a) 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. They must 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.
- b) Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with staff / volunteer(s), players' opposition teams.
- c) Give out personal details online including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access to people you do not know well offline.
- d) 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.
- e) 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.
- f) Delete inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.
- g) Use inappropriate language.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the police where Chipstead Football Club is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or banning from Chipstead



Football Club. Everyone must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by the police over which Chipstead Football Club will have no control.