



## **Cheltenham North RFC Social Networking Policy**

### **1. Introduction**

Social networking activities conducted online, such as involvement in social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or What'sApp and posting material, images or comments on sites such as You Tube can have a negative effect on a Club's reputation or image. In addition, Cheltenham North Rugby Football Club (CNRFC /The Club) has a firm commitment to safeguarding children in all aspects of its work. This policy has been written to set out the key principles and code of conduct that we expect of all members of the club with respect to their responsibilities in connection with the use of social networking sites.

### **2. Key Principles**

- Safeguarding children is a key responsibility of all members and it is essential that everyone at Cheltenham North Rugby Club considers this and acts responsibly if they are using social networking sites in relation to the Club
- All members at Cheltenham North Rugby Club have a responsibility to ensure that they protect the reputation of the club, and to treat fellow members of the club with dignity and respect.
- It is important to protect Cheltenham North Rugby Club from allegations and misinterpretations which can arise from the use of social networking sites.

### **3. Aims**

- To set out the key principles and code of conduct expected of all members of Cheltenham North Rugby Club with respect to social networking.
- To further safeguard and protect children and volunteers.

#### **4. Code of Conduct for members of Cheltenham North Rugby Club – Social Networking**

The following are not considered acceptable at Cheltenham North Rugby Club:

- The use of the club's name, logo, or any other published material without written prior permission from the General Committee. This applies to any published material including the internet or written documentation.
- The posting of any communication, or images, which link the club to any form of illegal conduct or which may damage the reputation of the club. This includes comments that are threatening, abusive and insulting.
- The disclosure of confidential, club-sensitive information, or the disclosure of information/images that could compromise the security of the club.

In addition to the above every member of Cheltenham North Rugby Club must ensure that they:

- Comply with the RFU Anti – Bullying Policy and must not make any derogatory, defamatory, rude, threatening or inappropriate comments about the club, or anyone at or connected with the club or those clubs that it plays. This includes referees and other club members.
- Use social networking sites responsibly ensuring that neither individuals or other clubs personal/professional reputation, or the club's reputation is compromised by inappropriate postings. By using or accessing the club pages, you agree to comply with Facebook's Terms and Conditions, in particular Community Standards.

"<https://www.facebook.com/communitystandards>. Cheltenham North Rugby Club reserves the right to remove any posts that do not adhere to our guidelines and to block anyone who violates them repeatedly"

#### **Posts will be removed that are:**

- Unlawful, libelous, defamatory, sexually explicit, obscene, abusive, violates other's privacy rights.
- Vulgar or use inappropriate language.
- Degrades others on basis of gender, race, class, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual preference or disability.
- A personal attack or designed to incite others to violate rules.
- Disruptive or off topic.
- Copyright protected materials.
- Link baiting (embedding a link in your post to draw traffic to your own site).
- Spamming in nature.

## **5. Potential and Actual Breaches of the Code of Conduct**

In instances where there has been a breach of the above Code of Conduct, the following will apply:

- Any breaches of this policy will be fully investigated. This investigation will initially sit with the respective coach/manager. Should it be found that this policy has been breached the respective coach/manager will immediately suspend the individual from all club activity until the next meeting of the General Committee. The matter will then be considered by the General Committee who will either deem the suspension sufficient punishment or, where need be, refer the matter to the club's disciplinary committee. A breach of this policy will be considered to be a serious disciplinary offence which is also contrary to the club's ethos and principles.
- The Club will take appropriate action in order to protect the club's reputation and that of its members, volunteers, children and anyone else directly linked to the club.

## **6. Social Network Sites Statement:**

All players, parents, managers, coaches or anyone associated with Cheltenham North Rugby Club are reminded, with regard to comments made on social network sites that, posting comments directed towards match officials, other players, other teams, other coaches/managers, or anyone else connected to adult, junior or mini rugby and whose comments are proven to be in breach of the club's Code of Conduct will be dealt with within the club's disciplinary procedures.