



Birmingham & District Football League Social Media Guidelines for Clubs, their Officials and Players



The FA has issued clarification to participants relating to the use of social networking sites, including, but not limited to Twitter, Facebook and internet blogs

Clubs should appoint appropriate adults to monitor the content of their websites. They should have an understanding of both the technology used, of safeguarding requirements and also of content which may be deemed to be against FA rules. A Club will be deemed to be responsible for any social networking account purporting to represent the Club unless it can be proved otherwise.

You are advised to moderate any web pages on a daily basis where possible. Clubs are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites, social network areas and any associated message boards or blogs abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.

Participants should be aware that comments made on such sites may be considered public comment, and that further to FA Rule E3, any comments which are deemed improper, bring the game into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting will lead to disciplinary action

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 offense or harm to other

Any such comment made on Club websites and/or social networking sites regarding officials may result in disciplinary action being taken in line with The FA's Disciplinary policies and procedures.

Comments made on websites 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.

The Birmingham & District Football League recommends that all Clubs amend their own code of conduct to raise awareness of the issues regarding the use and misuse of social media. Any Club found to be bringing the League into disrepute by its actions online and through social networking accounts will be required to appear before the League Standards Committee and maybe subject to penalty in accordance with League Rules.

If you need to report any misuse of social networks or internet blogs, please contact: Mike Dowling, Birmingham & District Football League Welfare Officer, or the Birmingham County FA Welfare Officer.