

Rolleston Cricket Club Use of Social Media Policy

Social Media is a brilliant communication tool for anybody that plays, watches or has an interest in cricket.

The interactions we receive are overwhelmingly constructive and positive, and providing a little common sense is shown there is no need for anyone to be afraid of posting.

Cricket Derbyshire has developed six guidelines to help cricket supporters make the most of social media and judge what is and is not appropriate.

Six questions to ask before you post or share

1. **Would saying this be acceptable if I was attending a cricket match in person?** Remember it just isn't cricket to show a lack of respect.
2. **Would I want my boss, my family or my coach to see this?** "Views expressed are my own" won't stop them being embarrassed or change the opinions they form.
3. **Would a newspaper publish this?** If the answer is no, it probably breaks libel or defamation laws.
4. **Am I 100% certain this is acceptable?** If in doubt, leave it out.
5. **Before sharing or re-tweeting, would I write this myself and do I endorse it?** If the answer is no, don't pass it on. By re-tweeting or sharing, you might as well be posting it yourself.
6. **How would I feel if someone wrote this about me?** If you wouldn't like it, don't post it.

Keep your login details secure. You are responsible for what is posted from your profile whether you wrote it or not.

PRINCIPLES

Below are our principles for dealing with malicious communications related to or associated with cricket in the Derbyshire Premier and County Leagues.

Zero Tolerance

Insulting, offensive, obscene, injurious or false content can be dangerous and harmful to people's wellbeing and reputation as well as bringing the league into disrepute.

We will not tolerate any malicious communications, harassment or discrimination through social media.

Do not use social media to make malicious, insulting, offensive, obscene or false statements regarding our players, coaches, officials, volunteers or spectators.

This applies regardless of whether

- (i) You are posting yourself or sharing someone else's post.
- (ii) The individual is tagged in the post or not
- (iii) The communication is by word, photograph, video or any other form.
- (iv) The post is anonymous or not. If we can trace it back to you, we will act.



Sanctions

If you are found to have acted improperly on social media regarding a Derbyshire Premier or County League related matter, or towards any of our players, coaches, officials, volunteers or spectators, you risk any or all of the following:

- Legal proceedings under the Malicious Communications Act
- Civil action under libel law
- Punishment, inc possible bans, deemed appropriate by the disciplinary committees of the leagues.
- Sanctions imposed by the league disciplinary committees on the club with which you are registered.

POLICY

1 Introduction

Social networking sites (such as, but not exclusively, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter etc.) are a useful way of keeping in touch with friends, family and club members, and are also a great way to exchange information. However, clubs, officials and players must not forget that what they post on social networking sites may be seen across these networks, and are reminded that they must not bring their club or the league into disrepute or cause any distress to any other member.

2 Policy

Whilst there is no intention to restrict any proper and sensible exercise of the individual's rights and freedoms, it is expected that all clubs, officials and players will conduct themselves in such a way as to avoid bringing the league and their club into disrepute.

This policy has been prepared to protect the privacy, confidentiality and interests of the League. This policy only applies to League related issues and is not meant to infringe upon an individual's personal interaction or commentary online. However all clubs, officials and players are asked to respect the privacy, confidentiality and propriety of the league and those working on their behalf, and not post anything that might be considered to breach this. Clubs, officials and players should take care when discussing information relating to league affairs as discussions can sometimes be misinterpreted and could potentially put other clubs, officials and players or the public at large at risk.

All clubs, officials and players should be aware that any inappropriate posts made to social media sites could lead to disciplinary action and in extreme cases, civil and criminal liability. All clubs, officials and players must take the account of the following before posting to the internet, including engaging in blogging or the use of forums, video sharing or social networking sites.

Clubs, officials and players should be aware that the committee takes the posting at any time of offensive material, and the harassment, bullying or victimisation of clubs, officials and players via the internet and social networking sites very seriously.

A breach of any of the following may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

- Clubs, officials and players must not divulge any confidential information or information belonging to the league which is not in the public domain or expand upon such information already in the public domain.
- Any photographs must not be used to harass, intimidate or bring the league, its clubs, officials or players into disrepute.



- Clubs, officials and players must not display offensive images or make offensive comments, or in any way harass, intimidate, bully, victimise or discriminate against other clubs, officials or players.

3 Club Responsibilities

All clubs have a duty to implement this policy and take action if they become aware of any breach of this policy, they should explain the club's policy on the use of social media and networking sites and take steps to promote awareness of this policy.

4 What to do if you believe you are being harassed, bullied or victimised via a social networking site

If you are a club, official or player who believes that you are being harassed, bullied or victimised as a result of another club, official or player's post to an internet site, it is open to you to take the necessary action. You should contact the secretary of the league disciplinary committee or another committee member for support and guidance on the informal and formal action which can be taken.

5 Consequences of not following this policy

Any club, official or player found to be in breach of the above may be subject to disciplinary action. If they are also found to be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 or other relevant legislation or copyright, it could lead to criminal proceedings and prosecution.

REPORT A BREACH

If you have witnessed a breach of this Code of Conduct and wish to make a complaint, you should contact the club immediately with as many details as possible. It is also best to block the person posting.

