



CHARTER STANDARD CLUB



Respect

Grampound Football Club

SOCIAL NETWORKING, WEBSITES, MOBILE PHONE AND EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Draft 1: November 2014

Summary of Best Practice Guidance

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 messaging across to the widest audience possible. Alongside the very beneficial aspects of modern communication technologies we have to recognise that there are also increased risks to children and young people.

These risks must be appropriately managed.

Grampound FC Response to the FA's Best Practice Guidance

1. Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. This document has been developed in response to requests for advice. It is essential that the club, parents, members and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications.
2. The club's website www.grampoundafc.co.uk has editorial safeguards in place that ensure that no inappropriate is published.
3. Coaches, managers, officials and others in a position of responsibility in the club must ensure they communicate responsibly. **The FA recommends that texting is not used as the primary method of communication between adults and children/young people in football.** Young people are defined as those under the age of 18.
4. If it is decided that the most effective way of communicating with young people is via a social networking site then it will be using only an account in the name of the club and explicitly for use by named members, parents and carers solely about football matters e.g. fixtures, cancellations and team selection. At no time should there be any personal communications, 'banter' or comments.
5. The club is 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. 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 offensive or harm to othersAny such comment made on the 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.
6. The club will appoint appropriate adults to monitor the content of their websites. Social networking is a cost effective way to communicate and easy to set up, but labour intensive to run.

7. Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and CWO 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.

The FA has developed a series of guidance documents to encourage best practice when communicating with and about children and young people; the following range of best practice guidance is available to you via the downloads area of www.TheFA.com/footballsafe:-

- 1 Social networking, websites, mobile phones, and email communications
- 2 Running a website - Do's and Don'ts
- 3 Responsible use of Social Networking sites
- 4 Communicating responsibly with Young Leaders, Coaches and Referees Under 18
- 5 Using Texts and Emails with U18s – Do's and Don'ts
- 6 Guidance for parents/carers - Responsible use of text, email and social networking sites
- 7 Guidance for U18s using: Club WebPages, Social Networks, Email and Texts

www.TheFA.com/Respect

www.grampoundafc.co.uk