



Aberaeron Football Club
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY
REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA



1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Association recognises that the use of Social Media can have a positive impact on the promotion and accessibility of Football in Wales. The Association promotes within these Regulations the FAW Fair Play Code and encourages, players, clubs, club officials and match officials to exercise respect, responsibility and integrity when using Social Media.
- 1.2. These Regulations are designed to ensure the responsible use of Social Media Platforms by all those involved in Association Football. This Regulation aims to prevent the use of Social Media in any way which may be harmful to the interests of Association Football. It is the Association's intention to take vigorous action against individuals and/or clubs who act in any way in contravention of this Regulation.
- 1.3. All players, clubs, club officials and match officials should refer to the guidance on the use of Social Media Platforms contained within the Football Association of Wales' "Off The Pitch" policy.

2. Social Media Platforms

- 2.1. Social Media is defined as "websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking".
- 2.2. For the purpose of these Regulations, Social Media Platforms will include (without limitation) the following:
 - 2.2.1. Twitter;
 - 2.2.2. Facebook;
 - 2.2.3. MySpace;
 - 2.2.4. LinkedIn; and
 - 2.2.5. Instagram.

The Association recognises that there are numerous Social Media Platforms available and the above list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3. Scope

- 3.1. Where there is sufficient evidence of an offence as specified under this Regulation, the individual and/or club concerned will be charged with a Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38 and the matter dealt with in accordance with the provisions set out in Section E of the Rules.

4. Offence

- 4.1. Any player, club, club official or match official must not post, on any Social Media Platform, a comment which:
 - 4.1.1. Implies bias of any player, club, club official or match official;
 - 4.1.2. Questions the integrity of any player, club, club official or match official;
 - 4.1.3. Is abusive, threatening, derogatory or of a personal nature which is likely to cause offence at any time; or

- 4.1.4. Brings the Association or the game of Association Football into disrepute.
- 4.2. Any player, club, club official or match official who posts, on any Social Media Platform, a post which is deemed to be of a discriminatory nature, as defined by section 3.1 of the Non-Discrimination Regulations, shall be charged pursuant to the Non Discrimination Regulations.
- 4.3. Upon receipt of a report that any player, club, club official or match official may have used a Social Media Platform in any way which may contravene this Regulation, the Association will investigate and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.
- 4.4. Any player, club, club official or match official who is deemed to be in breach of this Regulation may be charged with a disciplinary offence under the FAW Rules and sanctioned in accordance with Section E.

5. Aberaeron Junior's Football Club's Additional Rules

- 5.1 All age groups to set up and operate a What's App or Messenger Group as a means of communication between coach and players/parents with regards training, matches and other football related matters only.
- 5.2 Administrators of these groups should be limited to the coaches only. Each group will also have a Club Safeguarding Officer (CSO) as an Admin also.
- 5.3 Parents/Guardians of all children who have signed to play for the club should be added as Members to the Group.
- 5.4 Parents/Guardians should monitor their children's activity on Social Media.

I agree to abide by all of the above points.

Any breaches or concerns will be dealt with by action being taken against you by either the club, Area Association or the Football Association of Wales including:

- Summoned to a meeting with a Club, League or Area Safeguarding Officer or Club Committee.
- Monitored by the league or another club.
- Requested to attend appropriate FAW training.
- Suspended from attending matches.
- Required to leave the club.
- Subjected to a fine and/or suspension on the club imposed by the FAW, including the withdrawal of coaching qualifications.