

## **BBRFC Minis and Juniors**

### **Social Media Policy**

**September 2023**

Each Balsall and Berkswell RFC Mini and Junior team is permitted to host a separate Whatsapp account as long as the coaches or team manager are the administrator. Players under the age of 18 are not permitted to be part of these groups.

Balsall and Berkswell RFC does not permit social media accounts using the name of the club or any logos, branding or copyright images. While it is impossible to monitor any unofficial social media accounts, the club expects its members to adhere to this as part of the clubs Code of Conduct Policy.

#### **Content**

While the Club positively encourages social media use among members using their personal social media accounts, we are mindful of the need to ensure that all content is suitable for publication and does not breach any laws, common decency or Balsall and Berkswell RFC Safeguarding Policy.

It is not acceptable for any member of Balsall and Berkswell RFC, whether they are an adult or under 18 to post, amongst others, items that may include reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability, and any member found to have posted such items will be subject to disciplinary action.

Comments of this nature may attract civil or criminal action against the author(s). In addition, any abuse of match officials, opposition etc may be deemed by the RFU to bring the game into disrepute and lead to disciplinary sanctions against both the author and/or the Club.

Participants should be aware that comments which bring the game into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting, may lead to disciplinary action.

#### **Cyber Bullying**

All reports of cyber-bullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the police where Balsall and Berkswell RFC is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or banning from membership of Balsall and Berkswell RFC.

Members must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by the police over which Balsall and Berkswell RFC will have no control.

## **General Guidance**

Social Media and the internet as a whole is a public forum. Be mindful of your behaviour and attitudes to others while using Social Media.

Members are expected to show respect to others, including other members of Balsall and Berkswell RFC, members of opposition teams and the wider rugby community. Please act at all times within the core values of rugby and in accordance with the Code of Conduct Policy.

Individuals and organisations are wholly responsible for any posting on their account(s).

Respect the rights and confidentiality of others.

Re-posting or sharing inappropriate content represents an endorsement of that content and can be actionable.

Do not use abusive, derogatory, vulgar or sexual language.

Do not criticise or imply bias towards match officials. At all times, exercise discretion and respect for clubs, players, fans and the game's partners.

Balsall and Berkswell RFC insists that all members behave online, within the core values of the RFU and World Rugby and in accordance with the Balsall and Berkswell RFC Code of Conduct.

## **Safeguarding**

In the same way that Balsall and Berkswell RFC has a responsibility for the physical safety of Mini and Junior members when on the Club's premises, we must also ensure that there is nothing on its website or social media, which could harm a child, directly or indirectly.

Balsall and Berkswell RFC is wholly responsible for the content of its website.

Social media content, which can be commented on by all members and the wider public, will be moderated to ensure inappropriate content is removed.

When posting on social media there are key risks to guard against:

-Disclosing personal information about a child on social media: this could be the child's name, address, or any information about a child's life, interests or activities which would help a stranger target a child, or engage that child in conversation.

-Abusive or inappropriate content (photos, video or text), on social media: this includes material which criticises or humiliates a child. This can be peer to peer, or adult to child.

## **Summary of Club Rules Regarding Social Media**

All Age Group communications – for example fixture information, team selection etc. – should be sent via Teamo or Whatsapp or other game management system by the coach or team manager who is DBS checked.

Emails should only be sent using email groups comprising email addresses given by parents.

An email or direct message should not be sent to a child unless the parent is also copied. Such emails should only come from age group coaches or administrators as communicated to Parents.

Only Whatsapp groups run by DBS checked coaches or team managers are permitted to be used for team administration. Members under the age of 18 are not permitted to be part of these groups.

No club member, either adult or under 18, is permitted to use or host a social media account with direct links to Balsall and Berkswell RFC. This includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Tiktok etc.

## **Sanctions**

Any club member, adult or under the age of 18, found to be in breach of this policy could face disciplinary action from the Club and will be called in front of a disciplinary panel. These offences could lead to match bans, suspension or expulsion from the Club.