



RESEARCH JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY



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Social media is changing the way we communicate.

This policy has been developed to inform our community about using social media so people feel enabled to participate, while being mindful of their responsibilities and obligations. In particular, this policy provides practical guidance allowing all parties to benefit from the use of social media, while minimising potential risks and protecting those involved.

This policy assists to establish a culture of openness, trust and integrity in all online activities related to the Research Junior Football Club Inc ("RJFC").

This policy contains RJFC guidelines for the RJFC community to engage in social media use. It also includes details of breaches of the policy.

In circumstances where guidance about social media issues has not been given in this policy, we suggest you use common sense or seek out advice from those who have approved this policy.

1. UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

This policy compliments RJFC's core values:

RJFC aims to provide an opportunity for the youth of our area to participate in Australian Rules Football and enhance their health and well-being through organized sport. The Club, will at all times, endeavour to provide for the health, welfare and well being of its players, supporters and spectators.

This aim will be achieved by promoting and developing the following values and objectives:

- *A sense of social and community values.*
- *An environment to nurture the physical and mental development of our youth.*
- *Respect for officials, opposition players and supporters.*
- *The virtues of fair and disciplined play.*
- *Equal opportunities for everyone.*

They will be realized by providing as far as reasonable:

- *Competent coaches and assistants.*
- *Adequate facilities, amenities and equipment.*
- *Supervised social functions encouraging family participation.*
- *Regular communication and consultation with players and parents.*
- *Active leadership and management of the Club.*



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All players, Coaches and Officials, parents, supporters and Committee members have a responsibility at all times when representing the RJFC to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner consistent with these values and or Codes of Conduct.

The RJFC Child Safety Officer is responsible for all matters related to this policy.

2. COVERAGE

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of RJFC, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity including:

- members, including life members of RJFC
- persons appointed or elected to RJFC boards, committees and sub-committees;
- employees of RJFC
- members of the RJFC Executive;
- support personnel, including managers, sport trainers and others;
- coaches and assistant coaches;
- athletes;
- referees, umpires and other officials;
- member associations
- spectators and family members.

3. SCOPE

Social media refers to any online tools or functions that allow people to communicate and/or share content via the internet.

This social media policy applies to platforms including, but not limited to:

- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest etc)
- Video and photo sharing websites or apps (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram, Flickr)
- Blogs and micro-blogging platforms (e.g. Tumblr, Wordpress, Blogger)
- Review sites (e.g. Yelp, Urban Spoon)
- Live broadcasting apps (e.g. Periscope, Meerkat, Facebook Mentions, etc)
- Podcasting (e.g. iTunes, Stitcher, Sound cloud, etc)
- Geo-spatial tagging (e.g. Foursquare, etc)
- Online encyclopaedias (e.g. Wikipedia, etc)
- Instant messaging (e.g. SMS, Skype, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc)
- Online multiplayer gaming platforms (e.g. World of Warcraft, Second life, Xbox Live, etc)
- Online voting or polls
- Public and private online forums and discussion boards
- Any other online technologies that allow individual users to upload and share content.

This policy is applicable when using social media as:

1. An officially designated individual representing RJFC on social media; and
2. If you are posting content on social media in relation to RJFC that might affect RJFC's business or League affiliations or sponsors, products, services, events, members or reputation.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to the personal use of social media where it is not related to or there is no reference to RJFC or its business, competitions, teams, participants, products, services, events,



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sponsors, members or reputation. However, any misuse by you of social media in a manner that **does** not directly refer to RJFC may still be regulated by other policies, rules or regulations of RJFC.

4. USING SOCIAL MEDIA IN AN OFFICIAL CAPACITY

You must be authorised by RJFC before engaging in social media as a representative of RJFC.

To become authorised to represent RJFC in an official capacity, you must have completed the e-safety on line education (<https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/corporate-community-education/sporting-organisations-clubs>)

As a part of RJFC's community, you are an extension of the RJFC brand.

As such, the boundaries between when you are representing yourself and when you are representing RJFC can often be blurred. This becomes even more of an issue as you increase your profile or position within RJFC. Therefore it is important that you represent both yourself and RJFC appropriately online at all times.

5. GUIDELINES

You must adhere to the following guidelines when using social media related to RJFC or its business, products, competitions, teams, participants, services, events, sponsors, members or reputation:

5.1. Use common sense

Whenever you are unsure as to whether or not the content you wish to share is appropriate, seek advice from RJFC secretary or refrain from sharing the content to be on the safe side.

When using social media, the lines between public and private, personal and professional, may be blurred. Remember, you are an ambassador for RJFC.

5.2. Protecting your privacy

Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy.

When posting content online there is potential for that content to become publicly available through a variety of means, even if it was intended to be shared privately. Therefore, you should refrain from posting any content online that you would not be happy for anyone to see, even if you feel confident that a particular individual would never see it.

Where possible, privacy settings on social media platforms should be set to limit access. You should also be cautious about disclosing your personal details.

5.3. Honesty

Your honesty—or dishonesty—may be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue or misleading. If you are unsure, check the source and the facts before uploading or posting anything. RJFC recommends erring on the side of caution – if in doubt, do not post or upload.

Do not post anonymously, using pseudonyms or false screen names. Be transparent and honest. Use your real name, be clear about who you are and identify any affiliations you have.

If you have a vested interest in something you are discussing, point it out. If you make an endorsement or recommendation about something you are affiliated with, or have a close relationship with, you must disclose that affiliation.



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The web is not anonymous. You should assume that all information posted online can be traced back to you. You are accountable for your actions both on and offline, including the information you post via your personal social media accounts.

5.4. Use of disclaimers

Wherever practical, include a prominent disclaimer stating who you work for or are affiliated with (e.g. member of RJFC) and that anything you publish is your personal opinion and that you are not speaking officially. This is good practice and is encouraged, but don't count on it to avoid trouble — it may not have legal effect.

5.5. Reasonable use

If you are an employee of RJFC, you must ensure that your personal use of social media does not interfere with your work commitments or productivity.

5.6. Respect confidentiality and sensitivity

When using social media, you must maintain the privacy of RJFC's confidential information. This includes information that is not publically accessible, widely known, or not expected to be shared outside of RJFC.

Remember, if you are online, you are on the record—much of the content posted online is public and searchable.

Within the scope of your authorisation by RJFC, it is perfectly acceptable to talk about RJFC and have a dialogue with the community, but it is not okay to publish confidential information of RJFC. Confidential information includes things such as details about litigation, unreleased product information and unpublished details about RJFC including but not limited to RJFC teams, coaching practices, financial and trade information.

When using social media you should be considerate to others and should not post information when you have been asked not to, or where consent has not been sought and given. You must also remove information about another person if that person asks you to do so.

Permission should always be sought if the use or publication of information is not incidental, but directly related to an individual. This is particularly relevant to publishing any information regarding minors. In such circumstances, parental or guardian consent is mandatory.

5.7. Gaining permission when publishing a person's identifiable image

You must obtain express permission from an individual to use a direct, clearly identifiable image of that person.

You should also refrain from posting any information or photos of a sensitive nature. This could include accidents, incidents or controversial behaviour.

In every instance, you need to have consent of the owner of copyright in the image.

5.8. Complying with applicable laws

Do not post or link to content that contains illegal or indecent content, including defamatory, vilifying or misleading and deceptive content.

5.9. Abiding by copyright laws

It is critical that you comply with the laws governing copyright in relation to material owned by others and RJFC's own copyrights and brands.



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You should never quote or use more than short excerpts of someone else's work, and you should **always** attribute such work to the original author/source. It is good practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it.

5.10. Discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying

The public in general, and RJFC's employees and members, reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view.

You must not post any material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate.

When using social media you may also be bound by RJFC's values and Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy.

5.11. Avoiding controversial issues

Within the scope of your authorisation by RJFC, if you see misrepresentations made about RJFC in the media, you may point that out to RJFC President. Always do so with respect and with the facts. If you speak about others, make sure what you say is based on fact and does not discredit or belittle that party.

5.12. Dealing with mistakes

If RJFC makes an error while posting on social media, be up front about the mistake and address it quickly. If you choose to modify an earlier post, make it clear that you have done so. If someone accuses RJFC of posting something improper (such as their copyrighted material or a defamatory comment about them), address it promptly and appropriately and if necessary, seek legal advice.

5.13. Conscientious behaviour and awareness of the consequences

Keep in mind that what you write is your responsibility, and failure to abide by these guidelines could put your role at RJFC at risk.

You should always follow the terms and conditions for any third-party sites in which you participate.

5.14. Branding and intellectual property of RJFC.

You must not use any of RJFC's intellectual property or imagery on your personal social media without prior approval from RJFC.

RJFC's intellectual property includes but is not limited to:

- trademarks
- logos
- slogans
- imagery which has been posted on RJFC's official social media sites or website

You must not create either an official or unofficial RJFC presence using the organisation's trademarks or name without prior approval from RJFC.

You must not imply that you are authorised to speak on behalf of RJFC unless you have been given official authorisation to do so by RJFC.



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6. POLICY BREACHES

6.1. Policy Breaches

Breaches of this policy include but are not limited to:

- Using RJFC's name, motto, crest and/or logo in a way that would result in a negative impact for the organisation, clubs and/or its members.
- Posting or sharing any content that is abusive, harassing, threatening, demeaning, defamatory or libellous.
- Posting or sharing any content that includes insulting, obscene, offensive, provocative or hateful language.
- Posting or sharing any content, which if said in person during the playing of the game would result in a breach of the rules of the game.
- Posting or sharing any content in breach of RJFC's anti-discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment or other similar policy.
- Posting or sharing any content that is a breach of any state or Commonwealth law.
- Posting or sharing any material to our social media channels that infringes the intellectual property rights of others.
- Posting or sharing material that brings, or risks bringing RJFC, its affiliates, its sport, its officials, members or sponsors into disrepute. In this context, bringing a person or organisation into disrepute is to lower the reputation of that person or organisation in the eyes of the ordinary members of the public.

6.2. Reporting a breach

If you notice inappropriate or unlawful content online relating to RJFC or any of its members, or content that may otherwise have been published in breach of this policy, you should report the circumstances immediately to RJFC President.

Further information about reporting breaches:

- For a complaint about the misuse of social media relating to a match or competition that occurs either prior to, during, or after a game; refer to RJFC MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY.
- For a complaint about the misuse of social media that is general in nature and/or ongoing and does not apply to a particular game; refer to RJFC MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY.

6.3. Investigation

Alleged breaches of this social media policy may be investigated according to RJFC's Member Protection Policy.

Where it is considered necessary, RJFC may report a breach of this social media policy to police.

6.4. Disciplinary process, consequences and appeals

Depending on the circumstances breaches of this policy may be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary procedure contained in RJFC's Member Protection Policy.

Employees of RJFC who breach this policy may face disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment in accordance with RJFC Member Protection Policy or any other relevant policy.

6.5. Appeals

Any person who is sanctioned under a disciplinary process for breach of this policy may have a right of appeal to the NFNL as per the RJFC MEMBER PROTECTION POLICY.



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7. RELATED POLICIES

- RJFC's Codes of Conduct Policies
- RJFC Member Protection Policy
- Child Safety Policy

Other legal considerations that may be applicable include but are not limited to:

- Defamation
- Intellectual property laws, including copyright and trade mark laws, Privacy, confidentiality and information security laws
- Anti-discrimination laws
- Employment laws
- Advertising standards
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*
- Equal opportunity laws
- Contempt of Court
- Gaming laws

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