



# AFC Bridgnorth Spartans

## Social Media & Online Policy

It is essential that our club, volunteers, parents and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications. Social media (including personal and professional websites, blogs, chat rooms, podcasts, bulletin boards, social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube etc plus the sharing of e-mail) are used as everyday communication tools and as such need a code of conduct to look after and protect members of AFC Bridgnorth Spartans.

Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. Coaches, club officials, volunteers and others in a position of trust in football need to act responsibly both on and off the field and this includes the use of electronic communications. Clubs and leagues that set up websites have a responsibility to ensure safeguards are in place. Coaches, officials and those in a position of responsibility in clubs and must ensure they communicate responsibly.

We want everyone to be able to enjoy and document the club and children's progression and participate in the content building of AFC Bridgnorth Spartans. Within this document are guidelines to help responsible use of social media. For many people these guidelines will be common sense and you will be complying with them already.

We ask you as players, parents and carers to be aware of the following:

- FA guidelines on social networking, websites, mobile phones and email communications
- Guidance for parents/carers – responsible use of texts, email and social networking sites
- <http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/safeguarding/raising-awareness/photography-guidelines.ashx>
- Raising awareness - Downloads section for FA Safeguarding best practices

As a member of the club you are responsible for and need to abide by the FA Rules and regulations regarding comments you place online about the league, club, players, managers or match officials.

It is against Club and FA rules to post comments that are or maybe conceived as offensive, insulting, abusive, threatening, racist, and discriminatory or any other reference that may cause offence or harm to others.

Any such comment made on club or league 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.

When posting match reports, for the under 11 and below age teams, there should be no information published online – on the website and social networking sites that reveals the result of these matches to the reader. Any such comments will be removed.

All activity regarding the children's Live football should be posted after the event, no match advertising

All parents/carers are advised to familiarise themselves with:

- The guidance offered by the Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) centre; they provide guidance for parents/carers, children and young people. They also provide the most up to date guidance for online environments

If you have any concerns – please contact

Chairman: Rob Woodcock (07984149999)

Child Welfare Officer: Gemma Gaff (07807456058)

Marketing Manager: Richard Lloyd (Sten) (stenige@gmail.com)

### **Social Media Guidance for Managers and Parents**

All parents are advised to look at how they share their own children's activity on their own social media channels. Whilst individual actions cannot control away from the club them following guidance and expectations should be shared.

Parents to make sure all posts that contain other people's children (this includes the opposition) are set to private or share with friends. There is a responsibility to make sure that other teams' children are not exposed as there is not permissions for picture sharing from other teams. Parents can ask the other team on matchday's if they consent to their

children's pictures being taken, if this is the case intentions should be clearly stated and followed.

If a child is a child in care, there may be particular restriction on use of their photo.

It is of paramount that a no consent instruction from a parent or carer is respected and adhered to.

AFC Bridgnorth Spartans Parental Guidance for safe social media at junior football matches.

### **Do**

- Ask for permission from the managers prior to your match to take photos or film of games. This should be done in communication in the week prior to the game to give the opposing manager time to communicate with their parents. - If you wish to post images of your child please make sure privacy settings for the post are set away from public setting on parent's personal pages.

### **Don't**

- Post scores of any under 11 games
- Post pictures of children who you don't have consent to do so
- Name children with their full name in any posts.
- Post comments that are or maybe conceived as offensive, insulting, abusive, threatening, racist, and discriminatory or any other reference that may cause offence or harm to others.

It is against Club and FA rules to do so. Legal action can and will be taken in these cases.