



MANNING VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

COMMUNICATION AND USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Our Commitment

Using the internet and electronic communication is essential for communicating with club members. We are committed to communication being appropriate and related to club business.

What We Will Do

When using technology we will ensure that members' privacy is protected, clear boundaries are maintained, and bullying and harassment does not occur.

Website

- Information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws will be placed on our website.
- No offensive content or photos will be uploaded to our website, especially about social activities and events.
- YouTube video postings will feature positive team performances.
- Permission will be sought from parents to upload photos of their children, and care will be taken not to provide information that identifies them.
- A web master will be appointed to provide accountability and control over what goes onto our website and Facebook page.

SMS and emails

- Club committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to communicate club business and club-sanctioned social events, however:
 - > text communication should be short and about club/team matters
 - > email communication will be used when more information is required
 - > communication about children is through parents.

Facebook (if our club has a Facebook page)

- Postings and uploading of videos will feature positive club news and events.
- Personal information about members will not be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure the reputation of another person.
- No statements will be made that might bring our club into disrepute.
- Members will not engage in negative or destructive discussions or postings.
- Abusive, harassing, discriminatory or offensive statements will not be posted by members.
- Destructive or negative users will be deleted and blocked from engaging with the site.

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What We Ask You To Do

All members are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately, so think about what you want to say before you write it. Remember, an email is a written record of your thoughts on a matter and can be used against you later.

Communication by the club and members:

- should be restricted to club matters
- must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member
- must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of members or others
- should seek to protect the privacy of members
- must not bring the club into disrepute.

Coaches and others working with children and young people will direct electronic communication through parents.

Non-Compliance

Any club member found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate website content or engaged in blogs or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate members, may face disciplinary action as outlined in our member protection or other welfare policy or covered by our code of conduct.

Cyber bullying (e.g., bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or web pages) under certain circumstances is a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the police. The club can also initiate separate action where there has been a breach of our state sporting organisation and club member protection or other welfare policy to provide for the protection, safety and welfare of members.

Members publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g., Facebook or websites) may be liable for defamation.

I, [INSERT YOUR NAME] _____ have read and understood the policy and will abide by it as a member of [YOUR ORGANISATION'S NAME] .

If under 18 years of age, parent/guardian

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

Date: DD/MM/YYYY _____

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