



TATTENHOE FOOTBALL CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Last updated February 2023

This policy relates to social networking, websites, mobile phone and email communications.

The FA's intention and responsibility is to safeguard children and young people involved in football. The FA and Tattenhoe FC uses Social Media as a way of communicating to the widest audience possible.

Alongside the very beneficial aspects of modern communication technologies, we recognise that there are also increased risks to our players and our football community. These risks must be appropriately managed.

Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. It is essential that our club, our parents and carers, our members and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications.

The club should:

1. Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players or referees and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.
2. Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications.
3. Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
4. Remember they are responsible for reviewing responses to online posts and resolving any concerns about the propriety of the responses before they are posted.
5. If any other online participant posts an inaccurate, accessory or negative comment about the club or anyone associated with the club, do not respond to the post and contact The Club Secretary.

All club officials must not:

1. Use text or emails for personal conversations, sending pictures, jokes or other items of a personal nature or engage in any 'banter' or comments with or about children at the club.
2. Use internet or web based mobile phones or other form of communications to send personal messages of a non-football nature to a child or young person.
3. Respond to emails or texts from young people other than those directly related to club matters.



4. Use language that is directly (or could be misinterpreted as being) racist, sexist, derogatory, threatening, abusive or sexualised in tone.
5. Accept as a friend, young players or any person volunteering at the club who is U18 on social networking sites.
6. Make contact with children or young people known through football outside of the football context on social networking sites.
7. Post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, children, parent/guardian or opposition teams or any family members of those groups.
8. Delete any inappropriate text or email messages received as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.

Parent / Carers Guidance:

1. Ensure your child understands that they should tell someone that they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or when they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer or coach about the communication.
2. Remember as a parent/carer of a child at the club you and your child are responsible for and need to abide by the club policy, The Football League Policy Guidance and The FA Rules and Regulations regarding comments that you place online about the club or club officials, The Football League, players, managers, match officials, opposing teams players or family members of any of those groups
3. Inform the Club Welfare Officer as soon as possible if you or your child receives any inappropriate communication from any member of staff/volunteer or other person associated with the club and save the communication.
4. Parents must not use social media to speak ill of the club or any staff or associates or to comment on players, training or matches.

Player's Guidance - Players must not:

1. Post, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, or racist as this would go against football club's rules and could also be against the law.
2. Post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, players, opposition team member(s), or any family members of those above.
3. Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with staff / volunteer(s), players' opposition teams.
4. Give out personal details online including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access to people you don't know well offline.
5. Invite any adult involved with the club to become your friends online, or accept them as a friend on any social network site.



6. Reveal information about training, fixtures and contractual agreements etc using social media posts.

All Tattenhoe FC managers will have WhatsApp groups with parents – not players – and (from 23/24 season) a committee member will be included in every group in a monitoring and supervisory role and be assigned an admin role. These groups are used as the primary method of contact about football matters e.g. fixtures, cancellations and team selection.

To raise any concerns to the club relating to forms of communication that is a concern – in the first please contact clubwelfare@tattenhoefc.com Kerry Clifford-Taylor, Telephone: 07740 340875.

Alternatively you can also contact the Club Secretary – Lee Willows – secretary@tattenhoefc.com Telephone: 07725 025234.

ESCALATION

If any party is unhappy with how the concerns or the process has been handled, they have the right to escalate their concerns to the Chairman of the Club – please email chairman@tattenhoefc.com – Matt Aris, Telephone 07772 014489.

Upon receipt of any complaint – the matter will be fully investigated by the Chairman and a full review of the handling of the initial concern / complaint undertaken.

Once the Chairman concludes the investigation, the decision will be provided to who has raised the complaint.

Should the parties remain dissatisfied, this can be further escalated to the County FA Safeguarding Officer.

Contact details for County FA Safeguarding Officer:

Graham Fisher ([He/Him](#)) | Designated Safeguarding Officer

T: 01235 544890 | DD: 01235 544894

Safeguarding@Berks-BucksFA.com | www.Berks-BucksFA.com

The FA has developed a series of guidance to encourage best practice when communicating with and about children and young people; the following range of best practice guidance is available via the downloads area of www.TheFA.com/footballsafes

- 1 Social networking, websites, mobile phones, and email communications
- 2 Running a website - Do's and Don'ts
- 3 Responsible use of Social Networking sites
- 4 Communicating responsibly with Young Leaders, Coaches and Referees Under 18



Tattenhoe FC



5 Using Texts and Emails with U18s – Do's and Don'ts

6 Guidance for parents/carers - Responsible use of text, email and social networking sites

7 Guidance for U18s using: Club WebPages, Social Networks, Email and Texts Acknowledgements

The FA would like to acknowledge that the development of this guidance has been assisted by guidance written by the Amateur Swimming Association, England and Wales Cricket Board, Child Protection in Sport Unit and Child Exploitation Online Protection centre