



## SOCIAL MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY



When communicating with coaches and other members of Horwich RMI AFC or the league, parents and guardians are expected to have an awareness of the welfare of others, to uphold the good name of the club and show respect at all times.

This includes when engaging in correspondence via social media, text, and telephone or email.

As such, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

1. Ensure that the club has up to date contact details for your child's guardians including at least two telephone numbers and an e mail address.
2. Texts and phone calls regarding Horwich RMI AFC should be conducted at an appropriate time. Horwich RMI AFC deem 'appropriate' to be between the hours of 8am and 8.30pm on weekdays and 8am and 6pm on weekends. However, the club is aware that in certain circumstances, for example a pitch being 'called -off' on a Saturday morning, that it may be necessary to communicate via text or phone outside of these hours.
3. Offensive, abusive or insulting remarks and profanity of any kind in all communications neither typed nor verbal will not be tolerated by the club.
4. Be aware that emails, text messages and social media posts can be tracked, copied and forwarded and that anything typed which questions the character of a club, organisation, coach or player can be deemed as libellous.
5. Parents should only make contact with other adults, for example: coaches, volunteers or where necessary other parents. Other than their own child, they must never ring or text the players themselves.
6. Most coaches create official 'group chats' on Whatsapp to aid match and training arrangements. These will include a contact for every team member. There must be no favouritism as to who is included and no exclusion of any team member.
7. The group chat must contain only players over the age of 16 youth players must not be included in the group.
8. The official group chat must be utilised solely for the purpose of conducting team business and formalising arrangements. It is not for social purposes of any kind.
9. Always respect the players and parents never harass, abuse, or otherwise humiliate via the messages sent.



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10. Coaches will report any offensive, abusive or insulting remarks and profanity of any kind in any communication with and from the parents -this includes in telephone conversations. This will be dealt with by the Welfare Officer and Club Committee.
11. Horwich RMI AFC has an official Facebook pages, an Instagram page and an official Twitter account that will help keep parents up to date with key events and that celebrate the players, coaches and the club. Ensure you follow these pages.
12. Posts, photographs, videos and comments on social media should show respect to the decisions of the referees/officials and the outcomes of the matches played.
13. Photographs and videos taken of youth football players should be conducted in accordance with the FA photograph policy and posted must only contain Horwich RMI AFC players the consent of opposition team should be made before any photos are taken.
14. Posts should show respect for the players and opposition and always focus on the positives and improvements.
15. Please be aware that social media sites have age limits and restrictions and younger players at the club should not be utilising social media outside of these guidelines. Any violations will be investigated by the Welfare Officer.

By reading this document and paying the yearly membership fee and monthly subs, parents/guardians agree to abide by these principles and guidelines. Horwich RMI AFC reserve the right to remove any parent or child from the club if any part of this policy is breached. In addition, if deemed appropriate to protect the good name of the club or the welfare of its members, disciplinary, monetary or legal action may be taken