

GUIDELINES FOR USE of SOCIAL MEDIA – 2026

- These guidelines apply to all BLACKTOWN CITY players, officials, parents, supporters, and volunteers who create or contribute to blogs, wikis, social networks, virtual worlds, or any other kind of Social-Media. Whether you log into Instagram, Twitter, Yelp, Wikipedia, My Space, WhatsApp, Team App, Facebook, Facebook Pages, iMessenger, Closed Team Facebook pages TikTok or comment on online – these guidelines are for you

All of these are, considered to be Carriage Services and it is illegal to misuse them.

- We expect everyone who participates in online commentary to understand and to follow these simple but important guidelines. These guidelines might sound strict but please keep in mind that our goal is simple: to ensure that all members of our community participate online in a RESPECTFUL way that protects and promotes all participants in your Club and the junior leagues reputation, and of course follows the letter and spirit of the law.
- Under the NRL Player Development Framework, Players in Under 5's to Under 11's-
 - Competition ladders are not to be published
 - Scores are not to be published
 - Gala day results are not to be published
 - This includes post from players, parents, family members or spectators
- Posting of content from gameday and or training
 - Have the permission of all people in the image/video before posting
 - Do not post foul play/ offensive behaviour/ illegal tackles
 - Remember all posts reflect the clubs values, we don't condone foul play, therefore it should not be displayed on social media
- Postings should be family friendly and feature positive news.
 - Do not post information in any format that may harm the reputation of any person
 - Do not post information in any format that may harm the reputation of Blacktown city, Penrith JRL, NSWRL or the NRL
 - Ask yourself whether you would be happy to have the post directed at you – if not, don't post it!
- Never use a public forum or social media outlet to criticise another participant.
 - Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating, or offensive statements will not be tolerated
 - Any such communication or online abuse should be reported to the club secretary immediately.
- Watch your language – avoid swear words and profanity and remember that your sense of humour may not be shared by others. You should not make comments based on religion, politics, sex, sexuality, or racial issues.

- REMEMBER that your comments can be seen by anyone, as these are viewed as being in the public domain, and a comment is not easy to erase once you commit to making it public. As, a consequence, you can be held accountable for anything you post. It is important to note that people who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain maybe liable for defamation. Both our club and the Junior League have Conduct Review Panels which have had to deal with individuals who choose to operate outside of these guidelines.
- When disagreeing with the opinion of others keep interaction appropriate and polite.
 - In our opinion, it is advised not to comment to avoid the conflict, if the information is incorrect, report it to the club secretary to get it removed
- It is inappropriate for adult officials to communicate on a one-on-one basis with players under the age of 18 via social media outlets.
- Adult officials should not have players under the age of 18 years as their “friends” on social networking sites if the primary reason for the relationship is not rugby league and they have a position of trust in relation to that young person. Any team-based site must provide the Club Secretary with access privileges.
- Officials should carefully consider what they post as some comments can be seen by friends of friends. This also applies to comments left on other people’s pages and the sharing of photographs. Consider your position as a role model in this area.
- In the event of a player under the age of 18 showing an official a text, instant message, image, email or posting that is considered being inappropriate for a child to have, the official must inform a club official immediately.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy. What you publish is widely accessible and will be around for a long time, so consider the content carefully
- Junior League participants (players and officials) who send inappropriate electronic communication or post inappropriate online content or comments regarding another junior league player, official or third party will be subject to disciplinary action by the Junior League Conduct Review Committee or Junior League Board of Management
- **Remember – Pleading Ignorance of these rules is not an excuse!**