

Cowick Cats Netball Club Social Media Policy

1. Purpose and Scope

The Cowick Cats Netball Club encourages the use of social media to celebrate achievements, promote the club, and connect with our community. However, safeguarding all members—especially children and young people—is our top priority.

This policy outlines how members can use social media safely and responsibly. It is applicable to all club members, players, parents, coaches, volunteers, and committee members.

2. Safeguarding Principles

- Protect children and vulnerable individuals from exploitation, grooming, and bullying online.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries between adults in positions of trust and under-18 members.
- Ensure social media and communication tools are used in line with safeguarding best practices.
- Uphold privacy, dignity, and safety in all forms of online communication.

3. Communication Guidelines

- Adults must not send direct messages to under-18s. Group messages must include parents or guardians.
- Communication must always be transparent and include at least one other adult or the Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Emails must be copied to parents/guardians and sent from official club email accounts.
- Coaches and volunteers must not “friend” or “follow” junior players on personal accounts.

4. Acceptable Use of Social Media

Members must:

- Keep club and personal social media accounts separate.
- Avoid sharing confidential or private information.
- Never post content that could be deemed abusive, offensive, or discriminatory.
- Always gain consent before posting images or tagging individuals.
- Use secure privacy settings and regularly review them.

5. Club Page Management

- Club pages must have at least two adult administrators.
- The Club Safeguarding Officer should be one of the administrators.
- Pages should be set to ‘private’ or ‘invitation-only’ where possible.
- Content should promote the sport, share achievements, and provide official updates.

6. Player Conduct Online

Players are role models for the sport and should:

- Think before posting—ask, “Would I be happy for a coach, teammate, or parent to see this?”
- Avoid online arguments, bullying, or gossip.
- Maintain respect for teammates, opponents, and officials.
- Use separate private and public accounts where appropriate.

7. Reporting Concerns

- Any concerns about inappropriate communication or social media use should be reported to the Club Safeguarding Officer or Chair.
- Immediate threats should be reported to the police or social services.
- All reports will be treated seriously and with confidentiality.

8. Useful Contacts

- Club Safeguarding Officer: [Insert Name & Contact Info]
- England Netball Safeguarding Team: besafe@englandnetball.co.uk
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000
- CEOP Safety Centre: www.ceop.police.uk
- UK Safer Internet Centre: www.saferinternet.org.uk

9. Agreement to Comply

All members, players, volunteers, and parents/guardians are required to read and understand this policy.

Please sign below to indicate your agreement to abide by the Cowick Cats Netball Club Social Media Policy.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Role (e.g., player, coach, parent): _____

Date: _____