



This policy is an extension of Henley Rugby Football Club's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct Policy

Introduction

Members of Henley Rugby Union Football Club enjoy the opportunities and rewards of a community-based sports club combined with affiliation to county and national rugby union associations.

It is therefore expected that members will uphold the ethos of the Club in all social media interactions. Members will not act in such a way that the image of Henley Rugby Union Football Club is brought into disrepute nor in a way that harms it's immediate and wider rugby community. This is especially important when it come to our Mini and Junior section from a safeguarding point of view.

The Reason for This Policy

Social media is now a key method of communication for Henley RFC. The club is able to express opinions and is an integral way to connect with our rugby community, through promotion of the club and its members.

It is important for Henley RFC to have a policy to demonstrate how we ensure we are represented in a suitable way and can take action , if neccessary, against the incorrect use of social media. This policy is to show, without confusion to our members and players, the importance of ensuring that all our official social media accounts are utilised correctly, safely and responsibly.

Defining Social Media

Henley RFC has a number of official social media accounts. These are listed below with the correct addresses. These are the only official social media accounts for Henley RFC.

[Facebook.com/henleyrugbyclub](https://www.facebook.com/henleyrugbyclub)

[Twitter.com/henleyhawks](https://twitter.com/henleyhawks)

[Instagram.com/henkleyhawks](https://www.instagram.com/henkleyhawks)

[Linkedin.com/henleyrugbyclub](https://www.linkedin.com/company/henleyrugbyclub)





Each Henley RFC Mini and Junior team is permitted to host a separate Whatsapp account as long as the coaches or team manager are the administrator. Players under the age of 18 are not permitted to be part of these groups.

Henley RFC does not permit social media accounts using the name of the club or any logos, branding or copyright images. While it is impossible to monitor any unofficial social media accounts, the club expects its members to adhere to this as part of the clubs Code of Conduct Policy.

Content

While the Club positively encourages social media use among members using their personal social media accounts, we are mindful of the need to ensure that all content is suitable for publication and does not breach any laws, common decency or Henley RFC Safeguarding Policy.

It is not acceptable for any member of Henley RFC, whether they are an adult or under 18 to post, amongst others, items that may include reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability, and any member found to have posted such items will be subject to disciplinary action.

Comments of this nature may attract civil or criminal action against the author(s). In addition, any abuse of match officials, opposition etc may be deemed by the RFU to bring the game into disrepute and lead to disciplinary sanctions against both the author and/or the Club.

Participants should be aware that comments which bring the game into disrepute, or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting, may lead to disciplinary action.

Cyber Bullying

All reports of cyber-bullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the police where Henley RFC is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or banning from membership of Henley RFC.

Members must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by the police over which Henley RFC will have no control.





General Guidance

Social Media and the internet as a whole is a public forum. Be mindful of your behaviour and attitudes to others while using Social Media.

Members are expected to show respect to others, including other members of Henley RFC, members of opposition teams and the wider rugby community. Please act at all times within the core values of rugby and in accordance with the Code of Conduct Policy.

Individuals and organisations are wholly responsible for any posting on their account(s).

Respect the rights and confidentiality of others.

Re-posting or sharing inappropriate content represents an endorsement of that content and can be actionable.

Do not use abusive, derogatory, vulgar or sexual language.

Do not criticise or imply bias towards match officials.

At all times, exercise discretion and respect for clubs, players, fans and the game's partners.

Henley RFC insists that all members behave online, within the core values of the RFU and World Rugby and in accordance with the Henley RFC Code of Conduct.

Safeguarding

In the same way that Henley RFC has a responsibility for the physical safety of Mini and Junior members when on the Club's premises, we must also ensure that there is nothing on its website or social media, which could harm a child, directly or indirectly.

Henley RFC is wholly responsible for the content of its website.

Social media content, which can be commented on by all members and the wider public, will be moderated to ensure inappropriate content is removed.





When posting on social media there are key risks to guard against:

Disclosing personal information about a child on social media: this could be the child's name, address, or any information about a child's life, interests or activities which would help a stranger target a child, or engage that child in conversation.

Abusive or inappropriate content (photos, video or text), on social media: this includes material which criticises or humiliates a child. This can be peer to peer, or adult to child.

Summary of Club Rules Regarding Social Media

All Age Group communications – for example fixture information, team selection etc. – should be sent via Spond or other game management system by the coach or team manager who is DBS checked.

Emails should only be sent using email groups comprising email addresses given by parents. An email or direct message should not be sent to a child unless the parent is also copied.

Such emails should only come from age group coaches or administrators as communicated to Parents.

Only Whatsapp groups run by DBS checked coaches or team managers are permitted to be used for team administration. Members under their age of 18 are not permitted to be part of these groups.

No club member, either adult or under 18, is permitted to use or host a social media account with direct links to Henley RFC. This includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Tiktok etc.

Sanctions

Any club member, adult or under the age of 18, found to be in breach of this policy could face disciplinary action from the Club and will be called in front of a disciplinary panel.

These offences could lead to match bans, suspension or expulsion from the Club.

