



Haslemere Community Rugby Club Social Media Policy 2023-2024

As a club we encourage the responsible use of social media for our senior, junior and women's groups. The club realises that social media has become increasingly popular in recent years to aid marketing and communication. It allows people to connect in the online world instantly. It can be hugely beneficial in disseminating information about the Club and/or specific groups. There are a wide range of platforms that the term 'social media' relates to, however, Haslemere Community RFC recognises that the most popular channels currently used are – Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and WhatsApp.

Social Media:

Haslemere Community RFC recognises that we all live in a society that promotes free speech and freedom of expression, but we would caution that anything that you write has the potential to enter the public domain. Consequently, we would request that all social media commentary relating to the club is of a positive nature and does not bring the club into disrepute - please think carefully before making comments that may lead to unintended consequences. Any grievance, criticism or resentment should be directed in person to the individual or respective coaches. Matters of a more serious or contentious nature should be discussed with the Club's Committee. We remind all coaches, first aiders, volunteers and members of the committee as well as players that when commenting they represent Haslemere Community RFC and as such urge them to use the RFU's TREAD core values.

We would request that as club members you: refrain from any negative comments about players, parents, coaches, officials, referees, clubs, etc, whether from Haslemere or our opposition. avoid gossip, slanderous comments, disruptive comments, threatening comments, and anything that could be construed as abusive, harassing, obscene, libellous, or an invasion of another's privacy. if participating in 'friendly banter' use language that is moderated and non-discriminatory - irrespective of how you may express yourself in a work or home environment. not to respond to negative comments or to exacerbate an issue

Safeguarding:

The [RFU's Safeguarding Policy](#) advises against coaching staff having any direct / private personal communication with players within age-grade rugby (17 and under) unless in an exceptional situation and this applies also to any social media outlet. Coaches / Volunteers should not be "friends / followers" with age grade players nor interact with them via social media channels. The RFU works closely with [NSPCC's Child Protection in Sport](#) which provides further advice and guidance on this issue. All coaches and volunteers of Haslemere Community RFC are aware of this policy and have signed to say they agree to such standards.

Photos and Video of Children

There is a risk when posting an image on the web site that the image could be taken and adapted for an inappropriate use. Images of children should be chosen with care to avoid this where practicable. Where possible, images should be uploaded so they cannot be easily downloaded and altered.



This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

RFU Safeguarding Policy

HCRC Safeguarding Policy*

HCRC Photography Policy*

***Can be located on the website <https://www.haslemererugby.co.uk/information>**

This policy is reviewed and updated yearly in accordance with new legislation and guidance.