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## CHANGING LIVES THROUGH FOOTBALL

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On The Ball FC - part of the Fair Play Foundation (registered charity number SC048552)

### Social Media Policy

Glasgow On The Ball (GotB) understand everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play. Coaches, club officials, volunteers and others in a position of trust in football need to act responsibly both on and off the field and this includes the use of electronic communications.

Clubs and leagues that set up websites have a responsibility to ensure safeguards are in place. Coaches, officials and those in a position of responsibility in clubs and must ensure they communicate responsibly. Clubs are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites, social network areas and any associated message boards or blogs abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Scottish Football Association (SFA).

#### The club should:

1. Refrain from publishing comments about other clubs, players or referees and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects.
2. Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications. Harassment is any offensive conduct based on a person's race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, religion or any other status identified by The Equality Act 2010.
3. Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
4. If it maintains a website, blog, chat room, video-sharing site, bulletin board or other social media that promotes their club, should remember they are responsible for reviewing responses to online posts and resolving any concerns about the propriety of the responses before they are posted.
5. If a blogger or any other online participant posts an inaccurate, accessory or negative comment about the club or anyone associated with the club, do not respond to the post and contact the Club's Head of Football Operations for guidance/advice.

#### Player's Guidance

Players must not:

1. Post, host, text or email things that are hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, or racist as this would go against football club's rules and could also be against the law or post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of the club, club officials, match officials, players, opposition team member(s), or any family members of those above.
2. Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with staff/volunteer(s), players' opposition teams.



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3. Give out personal details online including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access to people you don't know well offline.
4. Use internet, web-based, phone or any other form of communication to send personal messages of a non-football nature to any member of staff/volunteer at the club.
5. Delete inappropriate text or email messages sent to you as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.
6. Use inappropriate language.
7. Reveal information about training, fixtures and contractual agreements etc using social media posts.

**Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken against any staff member, trustee, player, volunteer or intern who is found to violate the Social Media Policy.**

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result in notification to the police where Glasgow On The Ball is obliged to do so. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, suspension, or banning from Glasgow On The Ball. Everyone 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 Glasgow On The Ball will have no control.