



## **Guildfordians RFC – Social Media Policy**

Guildfordians RFC support England Rugby's core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship. We actively seek to promote responsible and courteous behaviour on the pitch and from supporters; this policy is an extension of this approach and is designed to provide helpful, practical advice to club members in using social media effectively and positively.

As a club we encourage the responsible use of social media for our senior, junior and touch sections. The club realises that social media has become increasingly popular in recent years, because 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, Guildfordians RFC recognises that the most popular channels currently used are – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and to a lesser extent YouTube.

Guildfordians 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 Guildfordians RFC 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 would request that as club members you:

- refrain from any negative comments about players, parents, coaches, officials, referees, clubs, etc, whether from Guildfordians 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.

Serious instances of irresponsible use of social media platforms associated with Guildfordians RFC may be referred to the Executive Committee, although any action taken by the committee will be judged on a case by case basis. Guildfordians RFC requests that you use social media outlets positively, be responsible, share your achievements, celebrate success, be gracious in defeat, be honest, and enjoy communicating and interacting.

**TEAMWORK  
RESPECT  
ENJOYMENT  
DISCIPLINE  
SPORTSMANSHIP**