



EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & GIRLS

Introduction

Ebbsfleet United Women Football Club (EUWFC) is committed to providing a safe environment for all players, coaches, volunteers, parents, guardians and spectators.

The Club acknowledges their responsibility to safeguarding the welfare of every child and young person, aged under 18 years old, who has been assigned to our care and who has been entrusted to engage in any club football activities that EUWFC deliver.

We include the use of social media when we consider our safeguarding obligations, and our Social Media Policy outlines expectations of its members, to ensure that they use proper online behaviour, at all times.

Safeguarding In the digital world

EUWFC follow the guidelines issued by The FA associated with the use of Social Media. It is against the club rules to post comments that are or may be perceived as:-

- Offensive;
- Insulting;
- Abusive;
- Threatening;
- Racist;
- Discriminatory;
- Of a sexual nature;
- Any other reference that may cause offense, harm or embarrassment to others or EUWFC, its members, officials or associates.

Any such comment made on club or league websites and/or social networking sites regarding match officials may result in disciplinary action being taken in line with The FA's disciplinary policies and procedures.

Comments made on websites that are threatening, abusive or racist could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible for posting or hosting them. Comments made may attract libel claims and legal action through the civil courts if they are untrue or defamatory.

Children and young people should be advised and encouraged by their coaches, parents/carers and Club Welfare Officer to always tell an adult they trust about communications that make them



EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & GIRLS

feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/ carer about the communication.

Social Media Best Practices

Club officials, coaches and volunteers must not:

1. Use text or emails for personal conversations, sending pictures, jokes or other items of a personal nature or engage in any 'banter' or comments with, or about, players.
2. Use internet or web based mobile phones or other form of communications to contact members of their teams directly. Contact should always be made via the parent or carer.
3. Use internet or web based mobile phones or other form of communications to send personal messages to a youth member of the Club.
4. Respond to emails or texts from players.
5. Use language that is directly (or could be misinterpreted as being) racist, sexist, derogatory, threatening, abusive or sexualised in tone.
6. Accept as a 'friend' on social networking sites, young players or any person employed or volunteering at the club who is U18.
7. Share any personal social networking sites with players involved in the Club or ask them to be a 'friend'.
8. Post personal comments in relation to –
 - the management or operation of EUWFC;
 - about fellow coaches or players of the club;
 - about match officials, league officials, or club officials of opposition team member(s);
 - or any family members of these groups.
9. Delete any inappropriate text or email messages received, as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.
10. Not use any photographs of players without consent and ensure that any photographs taken are appropriate for the purpose they have been taken, and do not cause embarrassment, or are of a revealing nature.



EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & GIRLS

Parental/Carer Guidance

- 1 Know who your club Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if you have any concerns, in relation to the welfare of your child. The Current EUWFC Welfare Officer is Sarah-Jane Heber-Hall O'Neill and Sarah can be contacted at safeguarding.euwfc@gmail.com or call her on **07736 369 652**
- 2 Ensure you are aware that coaches, Club Officials and other members of the club, when using social media (WhatsApp/emails etc), must communicate with you directly, and not with any player under the age of 18 years.
- 3 Show an interest in the communications between the club and yourself. Open communication about club activities/issues means that concerns are identified early and can be resolved more easily.

Youth Players Guidance

Youth Academy Players must not:

1. Post, host, text or email anything that is hurtful, insulting, racist, offensive, abusive, threatening or sexist, as this would be a breach of EUWFC's Safeguarding Policies and could also be against the law.
2. Post personal comments in relation to –
 - the management or operation of the football club; club officials; match officials; players of EUWFC; opposition team member(s); or any family members of these groups.
3. Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with EUWFC staff or with players and staff of opposition teams.
4. Give out their personal details online, including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access, to any adult, without a parent or carer's consent.
5. Invite any adult, involved with the club, to become a 'friend' online or accept them as a 'friend' on any social network site. They must not accept any such invitations either.
6. Use internet, web-based, phone or any other form of communication to send personal messages of a non-football nature to any member of EUWFC.
7. Use inappropriate language on any social media.
8. Delete inappropriate text or email messages received, as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result, where necessary, in the Police and/or the Kent Football Association being notified.

Any instances where a breach of this Social Media Policy is raised, will be investigated by EUWFC Committee.



Social Media Policy Document V.1.0 Summer 2023

EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & GIRLS

If you are concerned by any activities conducted by people associated with EUWFC that breach this Social Media Policy, please report this to the Club Safeguarding Officer, who will raise the concern to the Club Committee, for investigation.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please email the Club Secretary, Derek O'Neill, at doneill.euwfc@gmail.com

Signposting

The Football Association website provides excellent information regarding Social Media and the use of photography.

Other expert advice can be found at:

[NSPCC's online safety hub](#)

[Childnet](#)

[CEOP Education](#)

[Young Stonewall](#)

[Internet Matters](#)

[SWGfL](#)



Social Media Policy Document V.1.0 Summer 2023

EBBSFLEET UNITED WOMEN & GIRLS

Advice	Helpful background
It's ok to tell an adult you trust about any communications that make you feel uncomfortable.	Even if they have been made to feel guilty or ashamed, they need to know they are not to blame and they should always seek help. You can also make them aware they can report to CEOP if they prefer, or alternatively they can speak confidentially to ChildLine. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEOP• ChildLine – children can chat to ChildLine about any issue that is upsetting them online.
Think carefully about what you post and share.	Remind them that even online communications that feel private or are aimed at one other person can be screenshot or recorded and forwarded to many other users. This can create a digital footprint that is hard to remove.
Think about the impact on others of unkind comments or content you may share online.	Things that are intended to be funny or harmless can cause real distress that may not be obvious or visible. It's always worth talking to young people about the importance of being kind online.
Set privacy settings	You can find out about privacy settings, blocking and reporting from the links above. Remind the under-18s with whom you engage to use the settings available to block or report anyone who harasses them online or makes them feel unsafe.

Amendments of this Policy

We may amend this Policy at any time, however if we do, then we will inform you and will place a revised version of the Policy on the EUWFC Website.