



Safeguarding Policy

Parents/carers – please read and discuss this policy with your child.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on how we, as a Club, intend to manage the risks associated with such online technology, and what we expect from Members and Supporters so that we can protect our children.

Chorley Panthers understands the importance of emerging technologies for children's education and persona development but recognise that safeguards and guidelines need to be in place within the Club environment to ensure the Welfare of the children at all times. Anyone who does not agree to support this Safe Social Networking policy safeguarding policy will be excluding themselves from the club.

Social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook and video-sharing sites like You Tube or TikTok, provide exciting opportunities, however they are accompanied by dangers and negative consequences when used inappropriately. As a Club we have no control over such sites and this is why we have decided to issue this document as a guide to good practice and safe use of social networking sites.

The dangers for our Club fall into 3 main areas:

- Compromising the safety of members (players) and coaches.
- Bullying / Cyberbullying
- Damage to the Club's reputation

Cyberbullying is a growing issue amongst young people in particular, it uses technology (mobile phones, internet) to deliberately harm or upset others.

It can happen in many ways:

- Sending hurtful messages or voicemails.
- Name-calling / accusations on public pages.
- Silent calls.
- Excluding one another from chat / message rooms / areas.
- 'Happy slapping' – sending video / images of people being bullied, so others can see.
- Targeting of other players and teams before games.

Your child should understand that they should never be afraid to tell you about frightening or bullying emails or messages they get with unacceptable content.

To help keep your child safe, it's a good idea to set rules with your child and then monitor their internet use. Being involved will help them understand the dangers and give them a sense of responsibility. It will also let them know what kind of age-appropriate websites you think are suitable.

Further information and guidance on this subject can be found at:

www.nspcc.org.uk

www.safeginternet.org.uk

If you as a parent/ carer would like to learn more to help protect your child, please visit:

www.thinkyouknow.co.uk

The committee would like to make everyone associated with Chorley Panthers (in whatever capacity) aware of the following:

- The Club does not endorse the use of any social networking sites in relation to its activities or the Club related activities of Club staff, players or supporters, other than on the forum provided on the Club's own site, Club Facebook Page and associated closed team groups.
- The Club strongly discourages the "open" use of Facebook for Club related photos and comments, including the posting of specific match results, the naming of any players, of ours and other clubs' players, coaches or supporters.
- The Club operates a Club Specific closed Page which members are invited to join and share safely.
- All Team Club Facebook pages / Groups must have the appointed Club Welfare Officer as a member.
- The use of Facebook Messenger is not permitted under any circumstances between any club official / volunteer and persons under the age of 18 years.
- All communications must be directed via parent/ carer or as a group.

Any player, parent/ carer, supporter or club volunteer found to have posted items in connection with the Club or its activities which are deemed detrimental to any players, coaches or volunteers of Chorley Panthers or any other club, will be considered in breach of Club rules and respective code of conduct and will be dealt with via the committee's disciplinary procedures. If a safeguarding concern is raised then a referral will be made to the RFL Safeguarding Team. This may be in addition to any disciplinary action taken by the club.

- **Coaches will not have children as 'friends' on any social media platform.**

Secretary	Members Vice Chairperson	Chairperson	Facilities Vice Chairperson	Treasurer
Mark Hampson	Mark Hampson	Nigel Yates	Gavin Dagnall	Amanda Ryan
	Head Coach Youth	Head Coach Junior/Adult	Club Welfare Officer	
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