



# Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League Communication & Social Media Policy

## **PERSONS BOUND BY THIS POLICY**

Central Coast Junior & Senior Rugby League affiliated clubs, players, administration, match officials, coaches, support staff, agencies and/or any person who declares an association or reference to Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League affiliated clubs players, administration, match officials, coaches, support staff or agencies.

## **STANDARD**

Electronic communication is essential for sharing news and information with members. Communication shall at all times be timely, appropriate and related to team/club/ League business. Communication will protect member's privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the club.

Electronic communication:

- Must not be an offence under any current State or Federal law
- Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person.
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person.
- Should respect and maintain the privacy of members.
- Should be restricted to club or the League matters.
- Must not bring the game, club or the League into disrepute.

\*Coaches and others who work with children and young people must direct electronic communication through the child's parents.

A webmaster may be appointed by Central Coast Division Rugby League to provide accountability and control over material published on club websites and any related discussion groups or social media websites, such as Facebook, Youtube or Twitter.

## **AFFILIATED CLUBS & AGENCIES WEBSITES**

- Website shall include current information on competitions, policies, constitution, Rules and by-laws, committees & social events
- No offensive content or photos will be published.
- If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents and take care not to provide identifying information.

We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

## **EMAIL AND SMS**

Email users are obliged to operate this tool in a responsible, effective and lawful manner. Although email seems to be less formal than other written communication the same laws apply therefore it is important that you are aware:

- If you send or forward emails with any libelous, defamatory, offensive, racist or obscene remarks, you can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward confidential information you can be held liable.
- If you unlawfully forward or copy messages without permission you can be held liable for copyright infringement.
- If you send an attachment that contains a virus you can be held liable.



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Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about competition, training, club-sanctioned social events and other club business, however;

- SMS messages should be short and about club/team matters.
- Communication involving children will be directed through their parents.
- Email communication will be used when more information is required.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES**

- Country Rugby League of NSW therefore Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League treats all social media whether written, photographic, video, or audio - postings, blogs, status updates or tweets as public 'comment' which is accessible to all
- Any Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive news and events.
- No personal information about members will be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.
- No statement will be made that might bring the game, or the League into disrepute.
- Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from the site.

## **NON-COMPLIANCE**

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police. In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g. Facebook, Youtube or Twitter) may be liable for defamation.

Persons bound by this policy should be aware that they shall be held personally liable for any comments and material that may be deemed to be defamatory, obscene or private.

With respect to such non-compliance Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League (\*the League) reserves its right to take any other appropriate measures including instant removal from the League imposing other sanctions as determined by the governing bodies Code of Conduct and or taking legal action for damages. Such matters relating to non-compliance by a member or members of Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues shall be dealt with by Country Rugby League of NSW.