



# West Gambier Football Club

AFFILIATED WITH WESTERN BORDER FOOTBALL LEAGUE

## Social Media/ Cyber Safety & Photography Policy

### Social Media/ Cyber Safety and Usage Policy

#### **Rationale**

The West Gambier Football (WGFC) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for club officials, staff, registered players, umpires, coaches, club members, parents, spectators and sponsors. This responsibility is increasingly being linked to the use of the Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT), and has seen the emergence of a number of related Cyber Safety issues. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to all users and to the effective operation of the WGFC. WGFC places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members however it recognises that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal behavior and activities. WGFC aims, therefore, to maximise the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time to minimise the dangers and manage the risks.

#### **Definitions:**

*The abbreviation ICT' in this document refers to the term 'Information, Communication and Technologies.*

- a) 'Cyber safety' refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones*
- b) The term ICT equipment/devices' used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), Gaming Consoles, and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.*

#### **Penalties**

Any proven charges will automatically lead to a minimum of a one (1) match suspension for a registered player. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of



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the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the club or league and the prior good history or otherwise of the player. Players charged with these types of offences for a second or subsequent time and where a suspension has been previously imposed will face deregistration. Any player presented before the committee for the first or subsequent time on a cyber-bullying offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.

## UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

WGFC will develop and maintain rigorous and effective Cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of WGFC, whilst minimising and managing any risks. Members of WGFC have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the clubs expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with officials, coaches, umpires, players, parents, spectators and sponsors.

Members will not post inappropriate comments about individual WGFC club members or members of other Western Border Football League Clubs which if said in person during the playing of a game would result in disciplinary action being taken. Members of WGFC will also not post inappropriate comments regarding WGFC at any time.

"Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others." (Belsey 2007)

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing; teasing; intimidating; racially vilifying or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages; instant messages; text messages; phone messages; digital pictures or images; or Web site postings (including social network sites e.g. Facebook, Snapchat or blogs) and the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person. Club members must also be aware that postings from their individual accounts, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.

All members of WGFC must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the league and/or club will have no control. This particularly applies to 'sexting' where the image is of a person under the age of 18 years whereby Police will be informed immediately a club becomes aware of the situation.

## Procedure

WGFC club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or



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other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the committee of WGFC.

If the WGFC receives a complaint about an online issue, the allegations will be forwarded to the committee of WGFC.

We acknowledge that we have read (and or had the policy explained in the case of younger children) the above Cyber Safety and Usage Policy and agree to abide by it.

## Photography Policy

The West Gambier Football Club undertakes to seek permission from its players/ parents/ guardians before using photographs/videos of them for publicity and promotion.

Acknowledging this Policy is to serve as permission for the use of names, photographs/videos to be used in material produced by West Gambier Football Club or for the Western Border Football League for promotion of the Club or the League.

This material may include (but not be limited to) website content, brochures, newsletters, signage, video's, CD-ROMs, podcasts, media of WGFC or the WBFL and external media, e.g (newspapers, radio, television)

If you do not agree to this Policy please advise your respective Coach or Team Manager.

All WGFC Policy documents can be found under the "Club Policies" tab on the West Gambier Football Club Website [www.wgfc.sportingpulse.net](http://www.wgfc.sportingpulse.net)