



Communication Policy

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Written by: Mark Jackson



Introduction

Somersall Rangers Football Club intention and responsibility is to safeguard children and young people involved in football. As with other leading world brands Somersall Rangers Football Club uses platforms such as WhatsApp, Teamer, Messenger, Spond, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter as a way of getting messaging across to the widest audience possible.

Alongside the very beneficial aspects of modern communication technologies we have to recognise that there are also increased risks to children and young people. These risks must be appropriately managed.

Everyone involved in football must recognise that the responsibility to safeguard exists both on and off the field of play.

This guidance has been developed in response to requests for advice. It's essential that managers, parents, members and players make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications.

Somersall Rangers Football Club who have our own website have a responsibility to ensure safeguards are in place. Coaches, officials, referee mentors and those in a position of responsibility in Somersall Rangers Football Club and the relevant leagues must ensure they communicate responsibly.

The FA and Somersall Rangers Football Club recommends texting is not used as the primary method of communication between adults and child/young people in football.

If it is decided by the Somersall Rangers Football Club member that the most effective way of communicating to young people is via a social networking site then the management strongly advises that it sets up an account in the name of the club and is explicitly for use by named members, parents and carers solely about football matters e.g. fixtures, cancellations and team selection. At **no time** should there be any personal communications, 'banter' or comments.

Somersall Rangers Football Club members are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites, social network areas and any associated message boards or blogs abide by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.

The Somersall Rangers Football Club website is managed by the committee. Social networking is a cost-effective way to communicate and easy to set up, but labour intensive to run.

Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and CWO to always tell an adult they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer about the communication.

Guidance

The FA has developed a series of guidance to encourage best practice when communicating with and about children and young people; the following range of best practice guidance is adopted by Somersall Rangers Football Club.



1 – Running Websites and Social Media

<http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding/section-6/6-1-running-websites-and-social-media-platforms-colour-version.ashx>

2 – Digital Communications with Children

<http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding/section-6/6-2-digital-communications-with-children-colour-version.ashx>

3 – Staying Safe in the Digital World

<http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding/section-6/6-3-safeguarding-staying-safe-in-the-digital-world-colour-version.ashx>

4 – Staying At Home – Online Procedures for Coaches/Managers

<http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding/section-6/6-4-staying-safe-in-the-digital-world-coaches-colour-version.ashx>

5 – Staying At Home – Online Tips for Parents/Carers

<http://www.thefa.com/-/media/thefacom-new/files/rules-and-regulations/safeguarding/section-8/8-5-staying-safe-in-the-digital-world-parents-and-carers-colour-version.ashx>

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Contact Information

Further advice on Safeguarding Children matters can be obtained from:

Somersall Rangers Football Club Welfare Officer

Mark Jackson

Contact Number: 07429 604 273

Email: somersallcwo@gmail.com

Derbyshire County Football Association's Safeguarding Team

8 & 9 Stadium Business Court

Millennium Way

Pride Park

Derby

DE24 8HP

Contact Number: 01332 361 422

Email: safeguarding@derbyshirefa.com

The Football Association

www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding

Emailing – Safeguarding@TheFA.com

The FA Safeguarding Children general enquiry line 0800 169 1863

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