



Rationale

The era of the Internet and mobile phones has meant an explosion of ways for people to exchange messages in electronic form including what is commonly defined as Social Media.

While this is positive in terms of being able to communicate efficiently, there is also concern as electronic communication can be used in negative way. In particular, bullying and harassment as defined under Basketball Victoria's member Protection By laws is just as damaging via electronic means as it is via face to face communication.

The Club wants to only encourage the positive use of electronic messaging in its various forms and ensure that all participants understand that electronic communication should always be used in an appropriate manner.

Definition

An electronic message means any text (in any language), symbol or image that can reasonable be seen to convey a message, either directly or indirectly. The guidelines in this policy apply to electronic messages that can be sent and received using the following channels:

- Electronic mail
- Texting between mobile phones
- On line messaging & social networking (e.g. Instagram and Facebook)
- Interactive messaging through services such as Twitter
- Messages posted to any Internet based discussion forum
- Content displayed as part of any Web page

Note that in the context of this policy, all messaging between people using Club or private email addresses, personal computers and mobile phones is considered included where the messaging relates to any basketball or related activities that are conducted by the Club.

All forms of communication contribute to the relationships that need to be built between players on a basketball team for a positive influence to on court performance.

In particular, players and their parents should understand that all forms of electronic communication are traceable and can be used as evidence in a grievance.

This includes all messaging or content that is made about players or teams from both with the Bulleen Templestowe Basketball Club, as well as players or teams from any other Clubs or Associations who are part of the sport.

Guidelines

1. All participants (players, coaches, parents and friends) are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect at all times through all forms of communication
2. Any participant who sends an inappropriate (abusive, derogatory or discriminatory) message or posts inappropriate content on a Web page will be subject to disciplinary action according to the Club's policies
3. Participants should keep in mind that the exchange of any sort of electronic message as defined in this policy may well be considered private, but can potentially become public should a message exchange become the basis of a complaint
4. Participants should keep in mind that message exchanges between private mobile phones and or computers are all potentially able to be recovered and used in evidence
5. Participants should keep in mind that on Internet sites, chat rooms and forums all people in that conversation are generally able to save the content, and some content is also being saved to the local computer and can be recovered at a later time
6. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in their child's use of the Internet in particular and ensure their child has an understanding of the appropriate use of Internet services, in particular in chat rooms and social networking pages
7. Participants in chat rooms, forums and social networking should not use branding that is owned by the Club as part of their online identity, in particular the words "Bulleen Boomers" or the Club logo, as these forums are not sanctioned by the Club

8. Any person who sees content on the Internet that clearly references the Club in an inappropriate or unauthorised way is encouraged to report this to the Club manager so action can be taken
9. While it is very difficult to provide examples of consequences for specific actions, players in particular should understand that the Club will not hesitate to impose appropriate penalties , including suspension from playing , for the sending of inappropriate or abusive messaging content

Evaluation

This policy will be evaluated every 3 years as part of the Club's policy review cycle.

Adoption

Reviewed by Committee of Management 26th August 2013