



MASCOT NETBALL CLUB

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

Policy overview and purpose

Social media is changing the way we communicate.

This policy has been developed to inform our netball community about using social media so people feel enabled to participate, while being mindful of their responsibilities and obligations. In particular, this policy provides practical guidance allowing all parties to benefit from the use of social media, while minimising potential risks and protecting those involved.

This policy assists to establish a culture of openness, trust and integrity in all online activities related to Mascot Netball Club.

This policy contains Mascot Netball Club guidelines for the Mascot Netball Club community to engage in social media use. It also includes details of breaches of the policy.

In circumstances where guidance about social media issues has not been given in this policy, we suggest you use common sense or seek out advice from those who have approved this policy.

Coverage

This policy applies to all persons who are involved with the activities of Mascot Netball Club, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity and including:

- members, including life members of Mascot Netball Club
- persons appointed or elected to Mascot Netball Club committee and/or sub-committee/s;
- support personnel, including coaches, managers, umpires and other officials; and
- spectators and family members

Scope

Social media refers to any online tools or functions that allow people to communicate and/or share content via the internet.

This social media policy applies to platforms including, but not limited to:



- Social networking sites (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest, Yammer, etc)
- Video and photo sharing websites or apps (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, Instagram, Flickr, Vine, etc)
- Blogs and micro-blogging platforms (e.g. Tumblr, Wordpress, Blogger, etc)
- Review sites (e.g. Yelp, Urban Spoon, etc)
- Live broadcasting apps (e.g. Periscope, Meerkat, Facebook Mentions, etc)
- Podcasting (e.g. iTunes, Stitcher, Sound cloud, etc)
- Geo-spatial tagging (e.g. Foursquare, etc)
- Online encyclopaedias (e.g. Wikipedia, etc)
- Instant messaging (e.g. SMS, Skype, Snapchat, WhatsApp, Viber, etc)
- Online multiplayer gaming platforms (e.g. World of Warcraft, Second life, Xbox Live, etc)
- Online voting or polls
- Public and private online forums and discussion boards
- Any other online technologies that allow individual users to upload and share content.

This policy is applicable when using social media as:

1. an officially designated individual representing Mascot Netball Club on social media; and
2. if you are posting content on social media in relation to Mascot Netball Club that might affect Mascot Netball Club's members or reputation, products, services, events or sponsors.

NOTE: This policy does not apply to the personal use of social media where it is not related to or there is no reference to Mascot Netball Club or its committee, competitions, teams, participants, products, services, events, sponsors, members or reputation. However, any misuse by you of social media in a manner that does not directly refer to Mascot Netball Club may still be regulated by other policies, rules or regulations of Mascot Netball Club.

Using social media in an official capacity

You must be authorised by the Club President and Club Secretary before engaging in social media as a representative of Mascot Netball Club.

As a part of Mascot Netball Club's, community you are an extension of the Mascot Netball Club brand.

As such, the boundaries between when you are representing yourself and when you are representing Mascot Netball Club can often be blurred. This becomes even more of an issue as you increase your profile or position within Mascot Netball Club. Therefore it is important that you represent both yourself and Mascot Netball Club appropriately online at all times.

Guidelines

You must adhere to the following guidelines when using social media related to Mascot Netball Club or its products, competitions, teams, participants, services, events, sponsors, members or reputation.



Use common sense

Whenever you are unsure as to whether or not the content you wish to share is appropriate, seek advice from others before doing so or refrain from sharing the content to be on the safe side.

When using social media, the lines between public and private, personal and professional, may be blurred. Remember, you are an ambassador for Mascot Netball Club.

Protecting your privacy

Be smart about protecting yourself and your privacy.

When posting content online there is potential for that content to become publicly available through a variety of means, even if it was intended to be shared privately. Therefore, you should refrain from posting any content online that you would not be happy for anyone to see, even if you feel confident that a particular individual would never see it.

Where possible, privacy settings on social media platforms should be set to limit access. You should also be cautious about disclosing your personal details.

Honesty

Your honesty, or dishonesty, may be quickly noticed in the social media environment. Do not say anything that is dishonest, untrue or misleading. If you are unsure, check the source and the facts before uploading or posting anything. Mascot Netball Club recommends erring on the side of caution, if in doubt, do not post or upload.

Do not post anonymously, using pseudonyms or false screen names. Be transparent and honest. Use your real name, be clear about who you are and identify any affiliations you have.

If you have a vested interest in something you are discussing, point it out. If you make an endorsement or recommendation about something you are affiliated with, or have a close relationship with, you must disclose that affiliation.

The web is not anonymous. You should assume that all information posted online can be traced back to you. You are accountable for your actions both on and offline, including the information you post via your personal social media accounts.

Use of disclaimers

Wherever practical, include a prominent disclaimer stating who you work for or are affiliated with (e.g. member of Mascot Netball Club) and that anything you publish is your personal opinion and that you are not speaking officially. This is good practice and is encouraged, but don't count on it to avoid trouble, it may not have legal effect.

Reasonable use

If you are a volunteer of Mascot Netball Club, you must ensure that your personal use of social media does not interfere with your work commitments or productivity.



Respect confidentiality and sensitivity

When using social media, you must maintain the privacy of Mascot Netball Club's confidential information. This includes information that is not publically accessible, widely known, or not expected to be shared outside of Mascot Netball Club.

Remember, if you are online, you are on the record, much of the content posted online is public and searchable.

Within the scope of your authorisation by Mascot Netball Club, it is perfectly acceptable to talk about Mascot Netball Club and have a dialogue with the community, but it is not okay to publish confidential information of Mascot Netball Club.

When using social media you should be considerate to others and should not post information when you have been asked not to, or where consent has not been sought and given. You must also remove information about another person if that person asks you to do so.

Permission should always be sought if the use or publication of information is not incidental, but directly related to an individual. This is particularly relevant to publishing any information regarding minors. In such circumstances, parental or guardian consent is mandatory.

Gaining permission when publishing a person's identifiable image

You must obtain express permission from an individual to use a direct, clearly identifiable image of that person.

You should also refrain from posting any information or photos of a sensitive nature. This could include accidents, incidents or controversial behaviour.

In every instance, you need to have consent of the owner of copyright in the image.

Complying with applicable laws

Do not post or link to content that contains illegal or indecent content, including defamatory, vilifying or misleading and deceptive content.

Abiding by copyright laws

It is critical that you comply with the laws governing copyright in relation to material owned by others and Mascot Netball Club's own copyrights and brands.

You should never quote or use more than short excerpts of someone else's work, and you should always attribute such work to the original author/source. It is good practice to link to others' work rather than reproduce it.

Discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying

The public in general, and Mascot Netball Club's members, reflect a diverse set of customs, values and points of view.



You must not post any material that is offensive, harassing, discriminatory, embarrassing, intimidating, sexually explicit, bullying, hateful, racist, sexist or otherwise inappropriate.

When using social media you may also be bound by Mascot Netball Club's values and Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy, Communication Policy.

Avoiding controversial issues

Within the scope of your authorisation by Mascot Netball Club, if you see misrepresentations made about Mascot Netball Club in the media, you may point that out to the relevant authority in your club. Always do so with respect and with the facts. If you speak about others, make sure what you say is based on fact and does not discredit or belittle that party.

Dealing with mistakes

If Mascot Netball Club makes an error while posting on social media, be up front about the mistake and address it quickly. If you choose to modify an earlier post, make it clear that you have done so. If someone accuses our club of posting something improper (such as their copyrighted material or a defamatory comment about them), address it promptly and appropriately and if necessary, seek legal advice.

Conscientious behaviour and awareness of the consequences

Keep in mind that what you write is your responsibility, and failure to abide by these guidelines could put your club position/membership at risk.

Branding and intellectual property of Mascot Netball Club

You must not use any of Mascot Netball Club's intellectual property or imagery on your personal social media without prior approval from Mascot Netball Club.

Mascot Netball Club's intellectual property includes but is not limited to:

- trademarks
- logos
- slogans
- imagery which has been posted on Mascot Netball Club official social media sites or website.

You must not create either an official or unofficial Mascot Netball Club presence using the organisation's trademarks or name without prior approval from Mascot Netball Club.

You must not imply that you are authorised to speak on behalf of Mascot Netball Club.

Policy breaches

Breaches of this policy include but are not limited to:

- Using Mascot Netball Club's name, motto, crest and/or logo in a way that would result in a negative impact for the organisation, clubs and/or its members.



- Posting or sharing any content that is abusive, harassing, threatening, demeaning, defamatory or libellous.
- Posting or sharing any content that includes insulting, obscene, offensive, provocative or hateful language.
- Posting or sharing any content, which if said in person during the playing of the game would result in a breach of the rules of the game.
- Posting or sharing any content in breach of Mascot Netball Club's anti-discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment or other similar policy.
- Posting or sharing any content that is a breach of any state or Commonwealth law.
- Posting or sharing any material to our social media channels that infringes the intellectual property rights of others.
- Posting or sharing material that brings, or risks bringing Mascot Netball Club, its affiliates, its sport, its officials, members or sponsors into disrepute. In this context, bringing a person or organisation into disrepute is to lower the reputation of that person or organisation in the eyes of the ordinary members of the public.

Reporting a breach

If you notice inappropriate or unlawful content online relating to Mascot Netball Club or any of its members, or content that may otherwise have been published in breach of this policy, you should report the circumstances immediately.

Further information about reporting breaches:

- Email: info@mascotnetballclub.com.au – attention Club President

Investigation

Alleged breaches of this social media policy may be investigated according to Mascot Netball Club's Constitution and By-Laws (policies).

Where it is considered necessary, Mascot Netball Club may report a breach of this social media policy to police.

Disciplinary process, consequences and appeals

Depending on the circumstances breaches of this policy may be dealt with in accordance with the disciplinary procedure contained in the Netball NSW Member Protection Policy.

Related policies – Club/Association or Netball NSW

- Code of Conduct
- Anti-Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Policy
- Communication Policy
- Member Protection Policy

Other legal considerations that may be applicable include but are not limited to:



- Defamation
- Intellectual property laws, including copyright and trade mark laws, Privacy, confidentiality and information security laws
- Anti-discrimination laws
- Employment laws
- Advertising standards
- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Information Privacy Act 2000*
- Equal opportunity laws
- Contempt of Court
- Gaming laws