

THIRSK FALCONS JUNIORS FC - Website and Social Networking Policy

Thirsk Falcons Juniors FC embraces and promotes the safe use of social networking to promote the good work it does in delivering involvement in sport throughout Thirsk and Hambleton district.

The club has a Twitter page but does not have a formal Facebook, Beebo or Myspace pages and this policy will remain throughout the 2011/2012 season.

Thirsk Falcons JFC uses Twitter as a form of Social Networking to which it is for communicating results and Thirsk Falcons Juniors News and events. Thirsk Falcons own website is a facility used for match reporting and does not allow account access to third party members or parents of child members. The website can only have content added by authorised officials of Thirsk Falcons Juniors. The club does not have an official Facebook or Bebo page and strongly encourages parents and players not to create unofficial Thirsk Falcons Juniors FC pages. It is important to note that Facebook has a minimum age for access currently based at 13 years of age.

The internet and social networks change rapidly, so these guidelines may also be applied to other online services not mentioned above.

Although the club accepts that adults and young people are increasingly using social networking sites to interact with each other and as a communication tool it offers many benefits. However, the club also recognises that it raises a number of safeguarding concerns.

Primarily, the potential risks to young people include cyber-bullying, grooming and potential abuse by online predators and exposure to inappropriate content.

The club has adopted the following policy in relation to managers, coaches and other adult volunteers in a position of trust and responsibility and promotes the following guidelines for club members.

Policy for Managers, Coaches and other Adult Volunteers

James West (Press Officer) is the only club official authorised by the management committee to have access to Thirsk Falcons' Twitter Account, which is to be monitored by Vaughan Lonsdale (Club Chairman) and Geoff Nash (Club Secretary). This form of Social Networking will not be used as a means of communicating with players.

An adult club official who receives a request from a junior club member to become a "named" friend where the purpose of contact is football related will decline the request. In the case of Twitter the official will not "follow" any junior member where the purpose of contact is football related.

Where club officials make use of social networking sites they will not criticise or abuse other club officials, club members or other clubs, their officials or players. If the club becomes aware of such conduct then disciplinary measures will be taken.

Guidelines for club members who use social networking sites

Do not make a request to your coach or manager to be your social networking site friend.

Never make any comment or post/send a picture or video that may be hurtful, upsetting or untrue. Always think very carefully before posting comments or pictures as you may regret an action taken in the heat of the moment.

Do not post/send photos of other club members taken in connection with club activities as it may breach the club's policy on photographs and video.

Abide by the terms and conditions of your service provider. The most important piece of information is how old you must be to use the service, usually over the age of 13 years. The terms of service usually tell you what is and what is not acceptable behaviour and how you can contact them if you have a complaint or a concern.

Guidelines for club officials on the use of Thirsk Falcons Website

All match reports submitted by parents are to be vetted by the Team Manager for the age group prior to being published on the website.

The chairman and club secretary will monitor reports posted on the club site and if action needs to be taken will communicate directly with the Team Manager. If any official has any doubts over any report they are to seek advice from the club secretary and / or chairman.

At all times only team officials are to enter results and match reports onto the website

Any report that is deemed to contain content that is detrimental to Thirsk Falcons JFC, its members, parents, players or opposing teams or officials should not be entered onto the website at any time. Any club official finding reports including such material should report this immediately to the Club Secretary and/or Chairman.

Disciplinary Measures

All Breaches of the Social networking and Website policy are breaches of the club codes on conduct.

Should any post made on a social networking site or any content submitted via a match report have a complaint made to the club then an investigation will commence immediately.

Should any complaint be proven then the clubs management committee will instigate disciplinary measures against the official or parent involved.

The club strongly recommends that parents/ carers and club members visit the following websites for information about staying safe online,

www.thinkuknow.co.uk and www.thefa.com/TheFA/NewsandFeatures/2009/TopTipsParentsCatres.aspx