

Social Media

Policy U18



Contents

Policy statement	3
Principles	3
Definition of internet abuse relating to children	3
Ways bullying may occur	4
Preventative measures	4
Use of photography and film footage	4

Appendices

1. Sample consent form	5
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Reference Materials

The "Company" Safeguarding Children Policy
The "Company" Social Media-procedures for staying safe online
FA Safeguarding Children guidance



Social Media Policy

Date of Policy: August 2020 August 2021 August 2022 August 2023 August 2024

This policy super-cedes any other Social Media policy.

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the "Company" Social Media procedures for staying safe online for players U18.

Policy Statement

Bristol City Football Club, Bristol City Academy, Bristol City Women's Football Club, PGA-ETC, Bristol City Robins Foundation, Bristol Bears Rugby, Bristol Bears Women, Bristol Bears Academy, Bristol Bears Foundation, Bristol Flyers, Bristol Flyers Foundation, Bristol Sport Foundation, Ashton Gate and Bristol Sport are collectively referred to as "the Company".

The "Company" is committed to providing a caring, friendly, safe environment for all of its members so that they can participate in any sport in a relaxed and secure atmosphere.

Principles

Online safety involves the Internet, mobile phones and other electronic communications technologies. Some adults and young people will use these technologies to harm children. The harm might range from sending hurtful or abusive texts and emails, to enticing children to engage in sexually harmful conversations or actions online, webcam filming, photography, or face-to-face meetings. There is a 'duty of care' for any persons working with children to keep them safe from online exploitation.

As a growing means of communication, BCFC Academy follows the best practice guidance provided by the FA:

[www. The FA.com/football-rules-governance / safeguarding](http://www.TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding)

Definition of internet abuse related to children

'Internet Abuse' relates to four main areas of abuse to children:

- **Abusive images of children** (although these are not confined to the Internet)
- **A child or young person being groomed** for the purpose of Sexual Abuse

- **Exposure to pornographic images** and other offensive material via the Internet
- **The use of the internet**, and in particular social media sites, to engage children in extremist ideologies.

Ways bullying may occur

- Emotional - being unfriendly, excluding (emotionally and physically) sending hurtful text messages, tormenting, (e.g. hiding football boots/shin guards, threatening gestures)
- Physical pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- Racist - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- Sexual - unwanted physical contact or sexually abusive comments
- Homophobic - because of, or focusing on the issue of sexuality
- Verbal - name-calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing.
- On-line bullying

Preventative measures

In addition to the various “Company” policies all staff, parents and players have access to workshops on an annual basis specifically aimed at staying safe on social media.

All social media platforms used by staff within the “Company” when interacting with young people are monitored by the “Company” safeguarding team.

Any concerns should be reported immediately to the Club safeguarding officer (DSO) or safeguarding@bristol-sport.co.uk or 07880140411.

Use of photography and film footage.

Before taking images of children or young people, parental consent is sought in writing. At the start of the season all parents/carers are asked to complete a consent form. Should there be any reason to withhold or change consent it is the responsibility of the parent/carer to do so in writing to the Club Welfare team. The Club will inform parents/carers of how the image will be used. The Club will not allow an image to be used for something other than that for which it was initially agreed.

- All children or young people featured in Club publications will be appropriately dressed.
- Where possible, the image will focus on the activity taking place and not a specific child.
- Where appropriate, images represent the broad range of people participating safely in the event.
- Designated Club photographers will, where applicable, undertake a DBS check and attend a FA Safeguarding Children workshop and will be personally responsible for keeping up to date with the latest guidelines on the

Use of Images policies from the Premier League.
They will wear Club identification at all times.

- Any young person (U18) who is the subject of a court order will not have their images published in any Club document.
- No images of young people featured in Club publications will be accompanied by personal details such as their home address.
- Recordings of young people for the purposes of legitimate coaching aids are only filmed by Club officials and are stored safely and securely at the Club's premises.
- Mobile phone cameras are not permitted in changing rooms.
- Any instances of inappropriate images in football should be reported to the Club DSO (Refer to BCFC Dealing with disclosures of youth sexual imagery Policy)
- The Club does not put young player profiles with images and personal information on its website.

Date reviewed	Position	Owner
August 2020	Executive Board	M.A. Martin
August 2021	Executive Board	
August 2022	Executive Board	





Photographic Images Parental Consent Form (U18s)

The “Company” in this instance represented by **Bristol City Football Academy** is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all young players. As part of this commitment, the Academy wish to make clear that whilst they recognise that celebrating success in football through the use of images can be very positive , the only photography or video’s allowed at Academy matches or in training sessions is that which is authorised by the Club. Parents wishing to take photographs or use video recording should seek the approval of the Academy Manager.

Best Practice for official Academy photographers / videos

- All young people must be appropriately dressed, a minimum of shorts and shirts
- Photography should focus upon the activity not on a particular child
- Images should, where possible, be recorded in groups of young people and not focus on one young person
- There may be reasons why images of young players may not be used. For example, some young people may be subject to **Family Court Orders** images of those young person should **never** be used. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to inform the Designated Safeguarding Officer of the Academy if this is the case:
Contact details **DSO NAME PHONE NOS.**
- A parent / carer and the young player, where appropriate, should have completed the consent form to provide their permission for the images to be taken and used by Bristol City Football Club
- Bristol City Football Club will take steps to ensure these images are used solely for the purposes they are intended which is the promotion and celebration of the activities of Bristol City or The Football League.

Clarification regarding this consent form can be discussed with the Designated Safeguarding Officer

Please complete the attached sheet and return to
NAME TO BE ADDED by **DATE TO BE ADDED**



Bristol City Football Academy – Images Consent Form

(Bristol City FC) Academy – Image Consent Form

This consent form will last for the period of registration:

I _____ provide consent for my son:

To be photographed in accordance with the above Best Practice arrangements outlined above.

Age _____ Group: _____ Under _____
D.O.B _____

Signed _____ *(Parent/Legal
Guardian) _____ Date: _____

Print _____ Name _____ *(Parent/
Guardian) _____ Legal _____

Signed _____ (Academy representative) _____ Print _____ Name _____
Date: _____

Confirmed by Safeguarding Officer

Date: