

# **MID HILLS NETBALL ASSOCIATION - SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY.**

## **OVERVIEW.**

The Mid Hills Netball Association believes that every person who participates in sport has the right to participate in an environment that is fun, safe and healthy, and that these persons have the right to be treated with dignity and respect.

The MHNA has an obligation and responsibility to provide a safe physical and emotional environment for our registered players, officials, umpires, coaches, club members, parents, spectators, sponsors and staff, and this responsibility is increasingly being linked to the internet and information and communication technologies, including those areas involving social media platforms.

The MHNA supports the appropriate and acceptable use of Information and communication technologies for the benefit and use of its members.

The MHNA does realise however, that use of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate and even illegal behaviour, and does not condone the use of Social Media platforms or technology systems for any use that breaches its Codes of Conduct or negatively impacts on the game of netball, the Mid Hills Association or any affiliated Club or associated persons.

## **EXAMPLES OF INAPPROPRIATE ACTIVITY.**

- Threatening or bullying comments via Social Media platforms or SMS.
- Criticism of players, officials, umpires, coaches or clubs.
- Harassment.
- Spreading of rumours.
- Publishing or sending of derogatory comments or photos.
- Teasing or being made fun of.
- Some requests for personal information.

## **NON COMPLIANCE.**

The MHNA Complaints Committee or Board of Management may impose penalties on registered members for any use of a Social Media site, or Phone/SMS activity to convey material or information that is deemed inappropriate, has poorly reflected on the game of Netball or is considered in breach of the MHNA Codes of Conduct.

All members of the MHNA must realise that in some cases, inappropriate use of Social Media platforms may subject the persons to criminal investigation by Police, and that publishing of false or misleading comments may result in defamation action being taken against the persons involved.

## **WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU ARE A VICTIM, OR YOU ARE AWARE OF ANY INAPPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

- Save and print copies of the offending material.
- Keep records of when offending material was published.
- Contact your Club or Association **Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)**.
- Parents, be aware of, and discuss the use of Social Media platforms with your children.