



POLICY – Information Communication Technology (ICT)

Policy Number XXX- Member Protection Policy - Part F- Cybersafety

Document Control

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Approval

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Purpose and Background

Tweed Netball Association and persons identified in the Member Protection Policy Clause 3 have an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment. This responsibility is not solely confined to the netball court.

Tweed Netball Association acknowledge that the Internet and ICT devices/equipment can bring great benefit to all users and to the effective operation of **Tweed Netball Association**; however, Cyber safety issues related to the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have the potential to have a negative impact upon all concerned.

Tweed Netball Association place a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members; however, it recognises that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies may also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, abusive, threatening and/or illegal behaviour and activities. **Tweed Netball Association** seek to maximise the benefit of these technologies while at the same time minimising the dangers and managing the risks.

What is Cyber Bullying?



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“Cyber Bullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others” (Belsey 2007).

Cyber Bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology:

- a) harassing, teasing, intimidating or threatening another Registered Member by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings, irrespective of whether the post or message could be viewed by the wider public
- b) sending, receiving and/or possessing naked or sexually explicit images of a Registered Member.

Registered Members should:

- a) be aware that postings, comments and/or messages from their individual ICT account or mobile phone will remain the responsibility of the account owner unless the account owner can prove that their account had been accessed by an unauthorised person and by a method outside of their control
- b) be vigilant about the security of their account(s) and take all reasonable steps to protect themselves, for example, not sharing passwords or allowing others to log on to their individual accounts
- c) be aware that where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by Police over which **Tweed Netball Association** will have no control. This particularly applies to ‘sexting’ where the Registered Member is in possession of an inappropriate sexualised image of a person under the age of 18 years

Policy Statement

Tweed Netball Association and persons identified in the Member Protection Policy Clause 3 will implement and maintain rigorous and effective Cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of **Tweed Netball Association**, whilst minimising and managing any risks. Such practices will aim to maintain a Cybersafe playing environment and address the needs of the **Tweed Netball Association** to receive education about the safe and responsible use of present and developing ICT.

Applicability

This Policy applies to **Tweed Netball Association** and persons identified in the Member Protection Policy Clause 3, whether they are in a paid or unpaid/voluntary capacity:

This Policy will continue to apply to a person even after they have ceased with their association or employment with **Tweed Netball Association**.

Definitions

“**Cybersafety**” refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.

“**ICT**” means Information and Communication Technologies.



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“ICT devices/equipment” includes, but is not limited to, computers, desktops, laptops, PDAs, storage devices, USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, iPads, Smart Phones, MP3 players, cameras, video, digital, webcams, all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers, portable CD and DVD players, Gaming Consoles, and any other similar technologies as they come into use.

“Registered Member” means a person registered as a financial member of **Tweed Netball Association** who is therefore eligible to participate in a netball Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event conducted by an Organising Body. A Registered Member is subject to the **Tweed Netball Association** Competition Regulations.

Procedure

All reports of Cyber Bullying and other online or mobile telephone harassment will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Police where **Tweed Netball Association** is legally obliged to do so. A notification to Police by an individual will not override **Tweed Netball Association** responsibility to fully investigate a complaint, if one has been lodged with **Tweed Netball Association**, and such investigation will be conducted alongside any Police investigation.

A Registered Member may make a complaints under **Tweed Netball Association’s** Competition Regulations, if the behaviour the subject of the complaint occurred before, during or after a Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event arranged by **Tweed Netball Association**.

A complaint may also be made under **Tweed Netball Association’s** Member Protection Policy if the behaviour the subject of the complaint is general in nature and/or ongoing and does not apply to a particular Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event arranged by **Tweed Netball Association**.

Breaches of the policy

Tweed Netball Association takes its responsibility seriously in providing robust policy, guidelines and education for its members, in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviours.

The motto, crest, and/or logo of **Tweed Netball Association** or an Organising Body must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for **Tweed Netball Association**, the Organising Body or its members.

Tweed Netball Association have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are kept within **Tweed Netball Association’s** expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with any Official, Affiliated Association, Affiliated Club, Umpire, Coach, Registered Member and/or Organising Body.

Tweed Netball Association must not:

- a) post or send inappropriate comments via the Internet or ICT about any **Tweed Netball Association** Official, Affiliated Association, Affiliated Club, Umpire, Coach, Registered Member and/or Organising Body; where:
 - i. if said in person during the conduct of a netball game, would result in disciplinary action being taken; or



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- ii. such posting would be in breach of the ***Tweed Netball Association*** Member Protection Policy:
 - a. Part A – Code of Behaviour
 - b. Sections 14 & 15 Position Statements Policy – Cyber Bullying & Safety and Social Networking Sites.



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How to deal with breaches of this policy

If **Tweed Netball Association** feels that they have been the victim of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device.

If the content is of a sexually explicit nature, the Police should be informed immediately by **Tweed Netball Association**.

For all other instances of Cyber Bullying, the recipient and/or other person having knowledge of such behaviour, should print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident following the procedure listed below. **Tweed Netball Association** should also report the abuse to the Internet site, if applicable, or the relevant telecommunications provider, in the case of mobile phone abuse.

Penalties

Under **Tweed Netball Association's** Competition Regulations, a proven charge of an online breach of code of conduct, as per this policy, may attract one or more of the following penalties:

- a) A warning
- b) A monetary fine
- c) Suspension
- d) Disqualification and/or
- e) Any other such penalty as the **Tweed Netball Association** Hearing Officer or **Tweed Netball Association** Hearing Panel considers appropriate

Related Document

Tweed Netball Association Member Protection Policy
Tweed Netball Association Code of Behaviour