



Woodley Saints FC

Guidance relating to running websites and
social media platforms

2025

RUNNING WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

The following guidance is to ensure Woodley Saints manage their safeguarding responsibilities effectively on social media platforms.

It aims to ensure children, young people, coaches, referees and adults in a position of trust are not subjected to improper or improper allegations.

Woodley Saints FC are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on our websites, social network areas and blogs abides by the Rules and Regulations of The Football Association.

Any such comment made on club or league websites and/or social networking sites regarding match officials being taken in line with The FA's disciplinary policies and procedures.

Comments made on websites that are threatening, abusive or racist could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible or hosting them. Comments made may attract libel claims and legal action through the civil courts if they are untrue.

Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and Club Welfare Officer to avoid communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer about

THE RULES:

It is against FA rules to post comments that are or maybe perceived as:

- Offensive;
- Insulting;
- Abusive;
- Threatening;
- Racist;

- Discriminatory;
- Any other reference that may cause offence or harm to others.

Any such comment made on club or league websites and/or social networking sites regarding match officials being taken in line with The FA's disciplinary policies and procedures.

Comments made on websites that are threatening, abusive or racist could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible or hosting them. Comments made may attract libel claims and legal action through the civil courts if they are untrue.

Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and Club Welfare Officers to avoid communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer about

Children and young people should be advised by their coaches, parents/carers and Club Welfare Officers to avoid communications that make them feel uncomfortable or where they've been asked not to tell their parent/carer about

THE DO'S & DON'T'S:

DO:

- Appoint an appropriate adult(s) to monitor the content of the website, who should also attend The FA's Safeguarding Children courses to carry out this role.
- Make sure everyone within your club/ league knows who is responsible for monitoring the content of the website and how to contact them.
- Apply the principles within The FA's photography guidelines. See **Guidance Notes 8.3: Photographing and Filming**.
- Place the CEOP, 'Report Abuse' app on your website and links to the advice offered via its [ThinkUKnow](#), to provide appropriate advice to children as well as parents/ carers.
- Provide a link to [TheFA.com](#) safeguarding section – [TheFA.com/football-rules-governance/safeguarding](#).

- Consider the benefits of using public or private online/social media chat features against the potential risks and moderation needed. If you decide to use them ensure that you are aware of security and privacy settings and only allow comments to be posted by individuals known and permitted access by the club/league;
 - Remember that the club/league is responsible for all content contained on its website or social media; content/comments endorsed and/or shared by the club/ Leagues or its members on club/League public
 - Regularly monitor the content of the above and use [The FA's Grassroots Code](#) and '1.7 Appropriate Behaviours and Position of Trust Guidance' as a guide to acceptable behaviour online.
 - Ensure privacy settings are set appropriately so that the page(s) can only be used for club or league matters and does not details or host private conversations.
 - U16s should not be included within message or chat groups primarily used by League/Club Officials, club parents/carers to arrange fixtures, availability etc. Where 16-17 Coaches, Officials or players are invited to a team message or chat group it is important to get written parent/carer permission. Ideally, parents/carers are added to the chat and can view conversations.

DON'T:

- Host children's or young people's details in public areas where they can be seen or used by others to mobile phone and email of referees and coaches under the age of 18. Any details hosted should only be done with written parent consent.
- Host pictures of individuals without the express permission of parents/carers.
- Post details of individuals which may lead them to be more easily approached outside of football and/or targeted for negativity e.g. school/class/ year, player profiles detailing personal information e.g. favourite foods, movies, teams etc.;
- Post or host items which may be hurtful, insulting, offensive, abusive, threatening, racist or discriminatory, or otherwise may cause offence or harm to another, or might incite such behaviour in others.
- Post or host match results for teams that are under-11. Remember the focus is on participation and learning not outcome at this age.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

If you need any further advice or information, please contact your County FA Designated Safeguarding Officer

Click here to find a list of [County FAs](#) and their websites. Then visit the relevant website to find your Coun

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J D Pulfer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

J D Pulfer

Chairman

Review November 2026