

DARTFORD FC

YOUTH ACADEMY

Social Media Policy





Youth Academy

Head of the Youth Academy: Russ Searle

Head of Recruitment: John O'Sullivan

Lead Coach: Zach Bowden

Club Welfare Officer: Emma Colmer

Social-Media Policy

In the Youth Academy, our players are advised to always tell an adult they trust about communications that make them feel uncomfortable or if they have been asked not to tell their parent/carer about the communication. Any instances of Bullying on social media are totally unacceptable at Dartford FC.

The Youth Academy is committed to ensure that every person is treated in a respectful manner and, upon signing for the club, all players and parents (parents only for our younger age-groups) sign our Registration Form agreeing that they have read and understand all the club's policies. ***Any breach of such policies may lead to a suspension or dismissal from the club.***

Safeguarding in the digital world

The Football Association website provides excellent information regarding Social Media and recommends various external Groups and websites that provide help and guidance. Advice targeted at parents/carers is also relevant for our coaching staff and club officials. Some of these groups are CEOP and Thinkuknow; Share Aware – by the NSPCC, and Childnet.



Safeguarding our players is an issue that we take very seriously.

Using Social Media

Club officials, coaches and volunteers must not:

1. Use text or emails for personal conversations, sending pictures, jokes or other items of a personal nature or engage in any 'banter' or comments with, or about, players in the Youth Academy.
2. Use internet or web based mobile phones or other form of communications to send personal messages of a non-football nature to any Youth Academy player.
3. Respond to emails or texts from players.
4. Use language that is directly (or could be misinterpreted as being) racist, sexist, derogatory, threatening, abusive or sexualised in tone.
5. Accept as a 'friend' on social networking sites, young players or any person employed or volunteering at the club who is U18.
6. Share any personal social networking sites with players involved in the Academy or ask them to be a 'friend'.
7. Post personal comments in relation to the management or operation of Dartford FC and/or the Youth Academy; about fellow coaches or players of the club; about match officials, league officials, or club officials of opposition teams or regarding any family members of these groups.
8. Delete any inappropriate text or email messages received, as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.

Parental guidance:

1. Know who your club Welfare Officer is and how to contact them if you have any concerns, in relation to the welfare of your child.
2. Ensure you are aware that Youth Academy coaches and other members of the club, when using social media (WhatsApp/emails etc), must communicate with you, and not with any player under the age of 18 years.
3. Show an interest in the communications between the club and yourself. Open communication about club activities/issues means that concerns are identified early and can be resolved more easily.

Youth Academy Players must not:

1. Post, host, text or email anything that is hurtful, insulting, racist, offensive, abusive, threatening or sexist, as this would be a breach of DFC Youth Academy's Safeguarding Policies and could also be against the law.
2. Post personal comments in relation to: the management or operation of the football club; club officials; match officials; players of DFC Youth Academy; opposition team member(s); or any family members of these groups.
3. Engage in any personal communications, 'banter' or comments with DFC Youth Academy staff or with players and staff of opposition teams.
4. Give out their personal details online, including mobile numbers, email addresses or social networking account access, to any adult, without a parent or carer's consent.
5. Invite any adult, involved with the club, to become a 'friend' online or accept them as a 'friend' on any social network site. They must not accept any such invitations either.
6. Use internet, web-based, phone or any other form of communication to send personal messages of a non-football nature to any member of the Academy staff.
7. Use inappropriate language on any social media.
8. Delete inappropriate text or email messages received, as they may form part of any subsequent investigation.

Any breach of this Social Media Policy will be considered by the DFC Youth Academy Management and may lead to a suspension or dismissal from Dartford FC.

All reports of cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully and may result, where necessary, in the Police and/or the Kent Football Association being notified.

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