HELLINGLY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB C.I.C.

Lower Horsebridge, Hailsham, East Sussex. BN27 4DJ

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

This policy is designed to provide helpful, practical advice to members in respect of using social media effectively and positively.

As a Club we encourage the responsible use of social media. Whilst we are aware that numerous forms of social media are available, please note that Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. ("the Club") will only endorse Facebook and Twitter as we are unable to monitor other streams. We request that before setting up any new social media site, account or group that will be in any way connected to Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. permission is first obtained from the club committee. Such permission will not unreasonably be refused.

Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. recognises that we all live in a society that promotes free speech and freedom of expression, but we would caution that anything that you write has the potential to enter the public domain. Consequently, we would request that all social media commentary relating to Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. is of a positive nature - please think carefully before making comments that may lead to unintended consequences.

Use of photographs or video images should only be used with the express permission of those pictured or included in the footage. Any such use of static or video images should be 'age aware' and the posting of images of children (under 18) or vulnerable adults should be restricted to closed or secret groups only, where either a password or group membership is required for access. It is expressly forbidden for the names or other personal details of any child or vulnerable adult to be disclosed in any public forum.

Any grievance, criticism or resentment surrounding the club or its' members should be directed in person to the individual or respective managers or coaches. Matters of a more serious or contentious nature should be discussed with the Club's Committee. We would request that you refrain from any negative comments about, players, parents, coaches, managers,

referees, clubs, etc. within social media. If a negative comment is made, we would ask you not to comment on it either way, or to escalate an issue.

Please avoid gossip, slanderous comments, disruptive comments, threatening comments, and anything that could be construed as abusive, harassing, obscene, libellous, or an invasion of another's privacy (this includes text, audio, photographs and video). Whilst the club realises that a certain amount of 'banter' may take place on some forums, we would request that any language used is moderated, please remember that these forums can be viewed by a range of age groups from both genders.

Ensure that all comments or postings comply with the HRFC Anti Bullying Policy and must not make any derogatory, defamatory, rude, threatening or inappropriate comments about the club, or anyone at or connected with the club or those clubs that it plays or is otherwise associated with. This includes referees and other club members.

Serious instances of irresponsible use of social media platforms associated with Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. may be referred to the Club's Board of Directors, although any action taken by the committee will be judged on a case by case basis.

Code of Conduct – Social Media

The following are not considered acceptable by HRFC:

- The use of the club's name, logo, or any other published material without written prior permission from the Club Management Committee. This applies to any published material including the internet or other written documentation.
- The posting of any communication, or images, which may link the club to any form of illegal conduct or which may damage the reputation of the club in any way. This includes comments that are threatening, abusive, insulting or by proxy.
- The disclosure of confidential, club-sensitive information, or the disclosure of information/images that could compromise the security of the club.
- The posting or disclosure of the personal details of any individual or the naming of any child (Under 18) or vulnerable adult.

Hellingly Rugby Football Club C.I.C. requests that you use social media outlets positively, be responsible, share your achievements, celebrate success, be gracious in defeat, be honest, and enjoy communicating and interacting.