



Northamptonshire Football Association Ltd

YOURGAMEISOURGOAL

SOCIAL NETWORKING WEBSITES

Dear Secretary,

The NFA have seen an increase in the number of complaints it has received in relation to posting on sites such as Facebook and Twitter. I am sure you will appreciate that this is of concern and we would ask that you remind all participants at your club, with particular reference to all players, of the following key points:

- All comments on social networking sites may be considered public comment by the NFA
- Any comments which are improper, bring the game into disrepute or are threatening, abusive, indecent or insulting may lead to disciplinary action.
- Comments about match officials which imply bias, attack the officials' integrity or are overly personal in nature are considered improper.
- Comments which include a reference to a person's ethnic origin, colour, race, nationality, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability may be considered aggravated and attract a higher disciplinary action.
- Re-Tweeting another person's post may lead to disciplinary action if the original comment was improper.
- Deleting or apologising publicly for an improper posting, whilst advisable, does not prevent disciplinary action being taken.
- An individual is strictly responsible for any posting on his/her account. Participants should take every care to ensure that others do not access their account, as the fact that a posting or comment may have been made by a third party will not prevent disciplinary action being taken against the account holder.

Participants are required to act in the best interests of the game at all times and should be aware that their postings on social networking sites are likely to be subject to public scrutiny.

Whilst we are conscious that the use of social networking sites can be positive we must advise that participants exercise caution with the content of any posting.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Sue Ainge
Head of Football Operations

