

England Handball Social Media Policy (Young athletes)

Playing for England Handball and competing in England Handball events is a privilege not a right. Athletes are often regarded as role models in their schools and communities and as such have the responsibility to portray themselves, England Handball, their team and any other relevant organisation, in a positive manner at all times.

Social media sites have increased in popularity, and are used by the majority of young athletes in one form or another.

Young athletes need to be aware that third parties, including the media, handball officials, and future employers could easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes pictures, videos, comments and posts. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of young athletes, and the sport of handball. It can also be detrimental to a young person's future employment options whether in professional sports or other industries.

Examples of inappropriate behaviour concerning online social media may include depictions or representations of the following:

- **Videos, comments or posts that contain foul or offensive language.**
- Videos, comments, or posts showing the use of alcohol, drugs, or tobacco, e.g. no photographs showing- someone smoking or holding/consuming alcohol.
- Videos comments or posts that are of a sexual nature, including links to pornographic or other inappropriate material.
- **Videos, comments and posts that give a negative portrayal of England Handball athletes.**
- Pictures, videos, or posts that condone any drug related activity, including images that portray the use of banned/illegal substances.
- Any online content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, or threatening to any individual or institution-, e.g., taunting comments aimed at another athlete, comments aimed at officials, volunteers, coaches, or other teams.
- Any posts that encourage sexual harassment, gambling, violence, dishonesty, discrimination or any illegal activities involved with sports inclusion (including sports team initiations).
- Any posts that contain information that is sensitive or personal in nature about any individual or England Handball which is not public information, e.g. team eligibility, athlete injuries, or travel information.

If a young athlete's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviours, he/she will be subject to the following disciplinary process:-

1. The first offence will result in a meeting with the National Performance Manager/National AASE Manager (as appropriate) and the issuing of a written warning.
2. The second offence will result in a meeting with England Handball's Chief Executive and the issuing of a final written warning.
3. The third offence will result in the issuing of a sanction, as determined by England Handball, which may include suspension from any England Handball team.

For your own safety please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media.

- Set your security settings so that only friends can view your profile.
- Do not post your email, home address, telephone numbers or any other personal information which could leave you open to stalking, or identity theft.
- Be aware of who you add as friends (people may be looking to take advantage of young athletes).
- **Don't respond to offensive videos, comments or posts aimed at you or your team.**

If you are in doubt as to whether the nature of your online contributions is appropriate, consider if it positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as those of England Handball, and your school, college or university. England Handball is keen for its players to be able to make use of social media outlets in order to positively promote the sport and reach a key target audience. However, this should not be done in any way that is detrimental to the organisation or the individuals involved.

By signing below you confirm that you understand the England Handball Young athletes social media policy and the requirements that you must adhere to as a young athlete involved in any activity connected with England handball, including training, competitions or tournaments. You also confirm that you understand that failure to adhere to the above policy and guidelines may result in you being subject to the disciplinary process outlined above.

Athlete name _____

Athlete Signature _____

Date _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____