

REGULATIONS ON THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Association recognises that the use of Social Media can have a positive impact on the promotion and accessibility of Football in Wales. The Association promotes within these Regulations the FAW Fair Play Code and encourages, players, clubs, club officials and match officials to exercise respect, responsibility and integrity when using Social Media.
- 1.2. These Regulations are designed to ensure the responsible use of Social Media Platforms by all those involved in Association Football. This Regulation aims to prevent the use of Social Media in any way which may be harmful to the interests of Association Football. It is the Association's intention to take vigorous action against individuals and/or clubs who act in any way in contravention of this Regulation.
- 1.3. All players, clubs, club officials and match officials should refer to the guidance on the use of Social Media Platforms contained within the Football Association of Wales' "Off The Pitch" policy.

2. Social Media Platforms

- 2.1. Social Media is defined as "websites and applications that enable users to create and share content or to participate in social networking".
- 2.2. For the purpose of these Regulations, Social Media Platforms will include (without limitation) the following:
 - 2.2.1. Twitter;
 - 2.2.2. Facebook;
 - 2.2.3. MySpace;
 - 2.2.4. LinkedIn; and
 - 2.2.5. Instagram.

The Association recognises that there are numerous Social Media Platforms available and the above list is not intended to be exhaustive.

3. Scope

- 3.1. Where there is sufficient evidence of an offence as specified under this Regulation, the individual and/or club concerned will be charged with a Disciplinary Offence as set out under FAW Rule 38 and the matter dealt with in accordance with the provisions set out in Section E of the Rules.

4. Offence

- 4.1. Any player, club, club official or match official must not publish or share, on any Social Media Platform, a post and/or comment and/or image which:
 - 4.1.1. Implies bias of any player, club, club official or match official;
 - 4.1.2. Questions the integrity of any player, club, club official or match official;
 - 4.1.3. Is offensive, abusive, insulting, threatening, derogatory or of a personal nature which is likely to cause offence at any time; or
 - 4.1.4. Brings the Association and/or the game of Association Football into disrepute.
- 4.2. Any player, club, club official or match official who posts, on any Social Media Platform, a post which is deemed to be of a discriminatory nature, as defined by section 3.1 of the Non-Discrimination Regulations, shall be charged pursuant to the Non Discrimination Regulations.
- 4.3. Upon receipt of a report that any player, club, club official or match official may have used a Social Media Platform in any way which may contravene this Regulation, the Association will investigate and decide on the appropriate action to be taken.
- 4.4. Any player, club, club official or match official who is deemed to be in breach of this Regulation may be charged with a disciplinary offence under the FAW Rules and sanctioned in accordance with Section E.