



# Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues Communication & Social Media Policy

## Persons bound by this Policy

Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues its affiliated clubs & bodies, players, administration, coaches, support staff and/or any person who declares an association or reference to Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues its affiliated clubs & bodies, players, administration, coaches and support staff

## Commitment

Electronic communication is essential for sharing club news and information with our members. Communication shall be timely, appropriate and related to club business.

## What Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues affiliated Clubs & bodies will do?

A range of electronic tools shall be used to communicate with its members. Communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur. A webmaster may be appointed by Central Coast Division Rugby League to provide accountability and control over material published on club websites and any related discussion groups or social media websites, such as Facebook, Youtube or Twitter.

## Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby Leagues affiliated Clubs & bodies Websites

- Website shall include current information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, Rules and by-laws.
- No offensive content or photos will be published.
- If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents and take care not to provide identifying information.
- We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

## SMS and email

Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about competition, training, club-sanctioned social events and other club business, however;

- SMS messages should be short and about club/team matters.
- Email communication will be used when more information is required.
- Communication involving children will be directed through their parents.

## Social Media websites

- Country Rugby League of NSW therefore Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League treats all social media whether written, photographic, video, or audio - postings, blogs, status updates or tweets as public 'comment' which is accessible to all
- Any Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive club news and events.
- No personal information about members will be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.
- No statement will be made that might bring a club, the Division or game of Rugby League into disrepute.



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- Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from the site.

## What Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League ask you to do

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the club.

Electronic communication:

- Must not be an offence under any current State or Federal law
- Should be restricted to club matters.
- Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person.
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person.
- Should respect and maintain the privacy of members.
- Must not bring the club into disrepute.

\*Coaches and others who work with children and young people must be direct electronic communication through the child's parents.

## Non-compliance

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police. In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g. Facebook, Youtube or Twitter) may be liable for defamation.

Persons bound by this policy should be aware that they shall be held personally liable for any comments and material that may be deemed to be defamatory, obscene or private.

With respect to such non-compliance Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League reserves its right to take any other appropriate measures including instant removal from Central Coast Division imposing other sanctions as determined by governing League bodies and or taking legal action for damages. Such matters relating to non-compliance by a member or members of Central Coast Division Junior & Senior Rugby League Management shall be dealt with by Country Rugby League of NSW



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As at May 28<sup>th</sup> 2013