



Title	Cybersafety Policy
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TMFNC Cybersafety Policy

INTRODUCTION

Terang Mortlake Football Netball Club has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for Officials, Umpires, Coaches, Registered Members and Organising Bodies. This responsibility is not solely confined to the football ground or netball court.

TMFNC acknowledges that the Internet and ICT devices/equipment can bring great benefit to all users and to the effective operation of Football and Netball; however, Cybersafety issues related to the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) have the potential to have a negative impact upon all concerned.

TMFNC places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members; however, it recognises that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies may also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, abusive, threatening and/or illegal behaviour and activities. TMFNC seeks to maximise the benefit of these technologies while at the same time minimising the dangers and managing the risks.

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS POLICY

TMFNC will implement and maintain rigorous and effective Cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of Football and Netball, whilst minimising and managing any risks. Such practices will aim to maintain a cybersafe playing environment and address the needs of the Organising Bodies to receive education about the safe and responsible use of present and developing ICT.

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

“Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.” (Belsey 2007)

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology:

- (a) harassing, teasing, intimidating or threatening another Registered Member by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings, irrespective of whether the post or message could be viewed by the wider public; and
- (b) sending, receiving and/or possessing naked or sexually explicit images of a Registered Member.

Registered Members should:

(a) be aware that postings, comments and/or messages from their individual ICT account or mobile phone will remain the responsibility of the account owner unless the account owner can prove that their account had been accessed by an unauthorised person and by a method outside of their control;

(b) be vigilant about the security of their account(s) and take all reasonable steps to protect themselves, for example, not sharing passwords or allowing others to log on to their individual accounts.

(c) be aware that where a crime has been committed, they may be subject to a criminal investigation by Police over which the relevant Organising Body will have no control. This particularly applies to ‘sexting’ where the Registered Member is in possession of an inappropriate sexualised image of a person under the age of 18 years.

BREACHES OF THE POLICY

TMFNC takes seriously its responsibility in providing robust policy, guidelines and education for its members in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviours.

The motto, crest, and/or logo of the TMFNC must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for TMFNC or its members.



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All Registered Members of TMFNC, whether playing or non-playing, have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are kept within TMFNC's expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with any Official, Umpire, Coach, Registered Member and/or Organising Body.

Registered Members of TMFNC must not:

- (a) post or send inappropriate comments via the Internet or ICT about any Official, Affiliated Association, Affiliated Club, Umpire, Coach, Registered Member and/or Organising Body;

Where:

- I. if said in person during the conduct of a game, would result in disciplinary action being taken; or
- II. such posting would be in breach of the TMFNC Member Protection Policy.

HOW TO DEAL WITH BREACHES OF THIS POLICY

Any Registered Member who feels that they have been the victim of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device.

If the content is of a sexually explicit nature, the Police should be informed immediately by the member (or parent in the case of a minor), followed by a report to the relevant Organising Body.

For all other instances of cyberbullying, the recipient and/or other person having knowledge of such behaviour, should print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident following the procedure listed below. The member affected should also report the abuse to the Internet site, if applicable, or the relevant telecommunications provider, in the case of mobile phone abuse.

PROCEDURE

All reports of cyberbullying and other online or mobile telephone harassment will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Police where an Organising Body is legally obliged to do so. A notification to Police by an individual will not override an Organising Body's responsibility to fully investigate a complaint, if one has been lodged with the Organising Body, and such investigation will be conducted alongside any Police investigation.

A Registered Member may make a complaint relating to Cybersafety if the conduct the subject of the complaint occurred before, during or after a Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event arranged by an Organising Body.

A Registered Member may make a complaint to the TMFNC, if the behaviour the subject of the complaint occurred before, during or after a Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event arranged by an Organising Body.

A complaint may also be made under TMFNC's *Member Protection Policy* if the behaviour the subject of the complaint is general in nature and/or ongoing and does not apply to a particular Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event arranged by an Organising Body.

PENALTIES

Under TMFNC constitution a proven charge of an online breach of code of conduct, as per this policy, may attract one or more of the following penalties:

- (a) A warning;
- (b) A monetary fine;
- (c) Suspension;
- (d) Disqualification; and/or
- (e) Any other such penalty as the Hearing Officer or Hearing Panel considers appropriate.