**BLEAK HILL ROVERS**

**SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES**

The FA prohibits the publication of results and league tables for teams playing from Under-7s through to Under-11s and has guidance on the use of Social Media.

The guidance is mandatory for all organised youth football, and club’s and leagues affiliated to the FA.

Anyone involved in BHR will:

* Not publish the final score for any BHR squad on any social media platform, website, associated with the Club (apart from League requirements);
* Apply the same diligence to their own team or open social media  posts and groups.
* In addition to the FA policy, best practice guidance stared that BHR will additionally refrain from using ‘win, lose or draw’ references on open media sites and posts when referring to any of our u7 to u11 teams;

BHR would wish our webpage to be accessible for all and for the everyone to be able to participate in Facebook posts to positively highlight the excellent work carried out across all our age groups.  We ask our coaches, parents, members to be aware of the following;

* [FA guidelines on social networking, websites, mobile phones and email communications](http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/safeguarding/raising-awareness/social-networking-websites-mobile-phone-and-email-communications.ashx)
* [Guidance for parents/carers – responsible use of texts, email and social networking sites](http://www.thefa.com/-/media/files/thefaportal/governance-docs/safeguarding/raising-awareness/guidance-for-parents-and-carers.ashx)

As members or related to members, of BHR we are all individually responsible for and need to abide by the FA Rules and regulations regarding comments placed online about the league, club, players, managers or match officials:

* It is against Club and FA rules to post comments that are or maybe conceived as offensive, insulting, abusive, threatening, racist, and discriminatory or any other reference that may cause offence or harm to others.
* Any such comment made on club or league websites and/or social networking sites regarding officials may result in disciplinary action being taken in line with The FA’s Disciplinary policies and procedures.
* Comments made on websites that are threatening abusive or racist could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible for posting or hosting them. Comments made may attract libel claims and legal action through the civil courts if they are untrue or defamatory.
* When posting match reports, for the under 11 and below age teams, there should be no information published on line – on social networking sites that reveals the result of these matches to the reader. Any such comments will be removed.

All parents/carers are advised to familiarise themselves with:

* [The guidance offered by the Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) centre;](https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/) they provide guidance for parents/carers, children and young people.
* They also provide the most up to date guidance for online environments

Social Media Photographs

Several parents/careers do not want photographs of their children to appear on photographs on Social Media. Every year on our Registration Form, we ask parents to indicate if they do not wish to have youngsters’ photographs on Social Media. Each coach receives a copy of the Registration form and takes responsibility to ensure parents/careers wishes are met. We ask all parents/careers to be mindful of other peoples requests. It is advisable to blank out any “face” on Social Media if parents/careers do not have specific permission to publish pictures of other persons.

If you have any concerns please contact:

* BHR Welfare and safeguarding officer John Weaver(info@bleakhillrovers.com))

