

Balbriggan F.C.

Social Media & Photography Policy



Balbriggan F.C (the “club”, “us”, “we”, or “our”) understands that the use of Social Media helps promote football in the Republic of Ireland if used appropriately. The Policy outlines the standards Balbriggan F.C requires when using Social Media. The Policy is applicable to all individuals (Committee members, coaches, parents, players) affiliated with the club.

Personal Use of Social Media

Balbriggan F.C. respects your right to use Social Media for personal use however it is important to be mindful of the impact Social Media can have on others. The following conditions must be met for personal use to continue:

1. You are responsible for your conduct when using any form of Social Media. Your personal views should not conflict with your existing role in football.
2. You should be aware that what you publish will be public for many years.
3. Be mindful of the impact your contribution might make to people’s perceptions of the clubs and its associated bodies (North Dublin Schoolboy League, Metropolitan Girls League, Leinster Senior League and the Football Association of Ireland).

Balbriggan F.C takes a zero-tolerance policy in relation to all forms of bullying (including cyber bullying). All incidents of bullying will be dealt with under our bullying policy.

Use of Social Media for Coaches and Committee Members

Balbriggan F.C recognises that social media is a useful tool for organising and administering your team. However, due care must be taken in order to protect you as the coach and our players and parents.

1. Do not engage with irate players, parents or coaches on a public forum. Organise a meeting to allow all parties to discuss possible outcomes.
2. If you are a manager, coach or committee member you should not:
 - a. Accept any player or referee who is under 18 as a friend on your personal Social Media page. Instead encourage them to follow your organisations Social Media page.
 - b. Communicate **directly** with any person under 18 through Social Media, text message, phone or email. All communications concerning under 18’s should be made in a group setting (WhatsApp group, Facebook Group) that includes all players and their parents/guardians.
 - c. It is important to ensure all communications relate to specific club matters (e.g. fixtures, training) and are not personal in nature.

Unofficial Club Websites and Social Media Pages

Balbriggan F.C operates three official websites and social media pages:

- BalbrigganFC.ie
- Balbriggan FC Facebook page
- Balbriggan FC Twitter page

No coach, player, parent or committee member should set-up or operate pages outside of the above. This is for the purpose of maintaining clear lines of communications between the club and members of the public. All players, coaches, parents and committee members can public content to any or all of the official Balbriggan F.C pages by contacting info@balbrigganfc.ie. Where there is a need to operate an unofficial site or social media page, they should be set as non-discoverable by members of the public (e.g. Facebook group not a page, Private blog not a website).

Photography and Filming

There are inherent risks in posting personal information about Children as it can lead to being able to identify the child and their location, or it is possible that images may be subject to inappropriate use.

When posting photographs or videos the following points should be considered:

1. At the start of each season, the club collects the consent of a child's parent/guardian regarding the taking of any photography or filming. Each manager should be aware of the consent status of each player. This can be obtained by emailing info@balbrigganfc.ie.
2. Images of videos should only be uploaded to official club sites (BalbrigganFC.ie, Balbriggan FC Facebook page, Balbriggan FC twitter) and affiliated sites (Balbriggan.info).
3. Children's names or additional detailed information about them should not accompany any image or video.
4. Any person filming or taking photographs must be Garda vetted and have completed the FAI Safeguarding Course,
5. If a Child within your team is under a court order or is in the care of the Child & Family Agency / HSE, their image must not be placed in the public domain.
6. Ensure that Children are appropriately dressed and only allow images to be taken on the field of play. Photographing / filming should not take place in the clubhouse, changing rooms, showers or toilets.
7. Camera phones should never be allowed into Children's changing rooms, showers or toilets. If an individual who is engaged in filming / photography presents a serious concern or an immediate danger, please report the issue to your local Garda Station.

If parents / guardians, professional photographers or other spectators are intending to photograph or video at an event they should also be made aware of the Policy. Coaches should never allow unsupervised access to Children, one to one photo sessions or photo sessions outside of the playing field.

Breach of Policy

Breach of the Policy may be dealt with using the disciplinary procedures set by our nominated executive committee and, in serious cases, may be treated as gross misconduct leading to a suspension, ban from membership of the club and / or dismissal of duties.

Changes to our Policy

Changes to our policy may be made with the majority agreement of our nominated executive committee. Changes will take effect 28 days after the date of the vote. All changes will be reflected on this document and posted to the main page of our website.

This policy was last modified on 1st March 2018.