KEEPING SAFE ONLINE

A GUIDE FOR PLAYERS

KEEPING SAFE ONLINE—GUIDE FOR PLAYERS

The FAW is committed to providing a safe and enjoyable environment for its players, both on and off the pitch. We reject all forms of hate and discrimination and are committed to eradicating it from the game and supporting those who might be subjected to it.

Any abuse on social media could be breaking the law, with those sending threatening, abusive or offensive messages via any social networking site potentially committing a criminal offence which could lead to prosecution. The most relevant offences are 'harassment' and 'malicious communications'.

The FAW has its own Rules and Regulations regarding online communications of its members and individuals can be punished accordingly, including fines and bans. Social media providers also have their own rules and terms and conditions to prevent abusive or threatening behaviour.

If you feel that a post or interaction is abusive or threatening, you can and should take action to deal with and report it!

PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

There are some ways which you can help limit the risk of online abuse:

- Keep your profiles locked/closed, allowing access only to your chosen friends and family.
- Consider selecting the option to disable comments/replies/reposts on any personal posts.
- Check your privacy settings to limit who can tag you in their photos or posts, who can directly message, search for your profile or what information they can see about you.

TAKING ACTION

HOW TO DEAL WITH ONLINE ABUSE – FIRST STEPS:

- Report any serious abuse or threats immediately to the Police. You should consider temporarily disabling or removing social media accounts in serious circumstances to protect your safety.
- Block & report any individuals - If someone is being abusive, harassing or threatening you, remove them from your friend's list/unfollow, block and report them.
- If you have received online abuse, even if you are not overly concerned or if you intend to ignore it, you should consider keeping a record should any incidents escalate in the future.
- 'Screenshot', 'clip' or 'snip' tweets or posts on your phone, tablet or computer to keep as evidence.
- Carefully consider how and whether to respond to any comments/posts. When determining if to engage or ignore, you'll need to balance the risks and likely success of either approach in stopping the situation. Engaging in a discussion can often inflame the situation and you may be drawn into saying something you shouldn't.
- Talk to a friend or other trusted person about what is happening and how it makes you feel.
- Alternatively, use one of the support channels listed below to seek advice.
- Report any abuse to the social media providers for its deletion or to raise concerns about an account.

"DON'T IGNORE IT REPORT IT"

HOW TO REPORT ONLINE ABUSE:

SOCIAL MEDIA PROVIDERS:

Lots of content on social media that is offensive or upsetting is not necessarily a criminal offence. However, abusive posts and harassment often violate the terms and conditions established by social media sites and internet service providers.

Report any abuse to the social media providers so they can take action against users abusing the terms of service:

TWITTER

If a person sends you a tweet, replies to a tweet or messages you with a comment that you don't like, you can unfollow that person and block them to stop them from contacting you.

To remove or block someone on Twitter, tap the overflow icon (three dots) next to the Follow/unfollow button, you will see a menu with the options to 'block' the user to prevent them from seeing your profile and you can also 'report' from here.

To report a Tweet, navigate to the one you'd like to report. Click or tap the overflow icon, then select Report and 'it's abusive or harmful'. If you receive unwanted DM's click on the 'I' icon and report as you would above. With both of these options, there will be some more information you will be required to provide.

(See - https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/report-abusive-behavior)

FACEBOOK

Using the report links which appear on the page, you can report abuse directly to Facebook. A 'drop-down arrow' should appear giving you a menu option to report the image, post or comment.

You can unfriend or block a person from Facebook. Click on their profile, on the message dropdown you will see the option to 'unfriend' and/or 'block'. If you're not happy with a post you're tagged in, you can also remove the tag.

(See – https://www.facebook.com/help/408955225828742?helpref=about_content)

INSTAGRAM

You can also block and unfollow someone who is being abusive. To block someone on Instagram, tap their username to open their profile, tap the three dots and press the option to 'block user'.

If it continues, you can report it directly to Instagram.

(See - https://help.instagram.com/165828726894770)

For other social media providers see the provider's safety & privacy sections of their app/website.

THE FAW:

If an individual is a registered member of the FAW such as a Player, Coach, Match Official or Members of "The Red Wall" if reported, the incident will be investigated to establish if any FAW Rules or Regulations have been breached such as the Social Media Regulations, Non-Discrimination Regulations and "The Red Wall" membership terms and conditions.

🔥 Take a screenshot of any post or conversation thread, make sure that information such as date/time is visible. This information could be used as evidence.
🔥 Report the incident to ReportIT@faw.co.uk attaching all screenshot images and any relevant information that can help with the investigation.

THE POLICE:

SHOULD I CONTACT THE POLICE?

It might help to consider your responses to these questions when considering if you should contact the police in response to what has happened/ is happening online:

🔥 Am I in immediate danger?
🔥 Has a threat to my life been made?
🔥 Has my safety been compromised?

If you answered yes to any of the questions above, we would recommend contacting the police as an emergency. It is always best to contact the police by dialling 999 if you are in immediate danger.

You can report other non-emergency situations (i.e. those that do not require an immediate police response) by dialling 101.

Abuse online can also be a hate crime.

For more information visit: https://www.report-it.org.uk/home

ANONYMOUS REPORTING

If you want to report anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers. You do not have to give your name, you will never have to give a statement to the police, or go to court.

Visit www.crimestoppers-uk.org or call 0800 555 111 (free to call)

FURTHER HELP & ADVICE:

VICTIM SUPPORT

For further help and advice, you can contact Victim Support.

For more information visit: https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/

FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

If you would like to speak to someone from the FAW you can contact:

Email: Pawb@faw.co.uk