

Bearnna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

Glossary:

- Club shall mean Bearnna na Forbacha Aontaithe
- Board shall mean the Executive Committee of Bearnna na Forbacha Aontaithe
- Child Welfare and Safeguarding Committee shall mean a Committee of Bearnna na Forbacha Aontaithe
- Children, Child, or Young Person shall mean individuals under the age of eighteen other than a person who is or has been married.
- Club Children’s Officer shall mean the person to whom the Child welfare day to day functions is delegated. Their remit shall be a key component of the Safeguarding Statement and they shall be the Relevant Person for the Child Safeguarding Statement. Avril Lydon is Bearnna na Forbacha’s Children’s Officer.
- Designated Liaison Person shall mean the person who is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures within the Club are followed so that Child welfare and protection concerns are referred promptly to the Statutory Authorities and will also consult with outside agencies. Additionally, they will be a resource person to any employee or volunteer who has Child protection concerns. Aengus Byrne is the Designated Liaison Person for Bearnna na Forbacha.
- Social Media shall mean any form of electronic communication through which users share information, ideas, personalized messages, and other content.
- Stand Down Order shall mean an order which is issued to any person who is the subject of a complaint or inquiry by a Statutory Authority in relation to any Child welfare or Vulnerable person concern. A Stand Down Order is issued to an individual to immediately refrain from certain activities within the Club/FAI for a specified or indefinite period pending the outcome of an enquiry or investigation in accordance with FAI Rules.

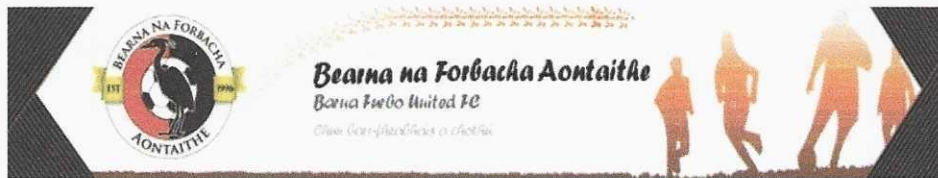


Bearn na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

- Statutory Authorities shall mean those state bodies which promote the welfare and protection of Children and Vulnerable person and have a legal responsibility for the investigation and / or validation of suspected child abuse, and these include An Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and the Child and Family Agency (Tusla).
- The Association or the FAI shall mean the Football Association of Ireland.
- The Policy shall mean this Bearn na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy.
- Vulnerable Person means a person, other than a Child, who—
 - (a) is suffering from a disorder of the mind, whether because of mental illness or dementia,
 - (b) has an intellectual disability,
 - (c) is suffering from a physical impairment, whether because of injury, illness, or age,
 - (d) has a physical disability,

Which is of such a nature or degree:

1. As to restrict the capacity of the person to guard himself or herself against harm by another person, or
2. That results in the person requiring assistance with the activities of daily living including dressing, eating, walking, washing, and bathing.



Bearna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

1. Policy statement:

1.1 The Club understands that the use of social media helps promote football in the Republic of Ireland if used appropriately. The Policy outlines the standards the Club requires when using social media.

2. Who is covered by the Policy?

2.1. The Policy is applicable to all individuals working / volunteering in any capacity within the Club.

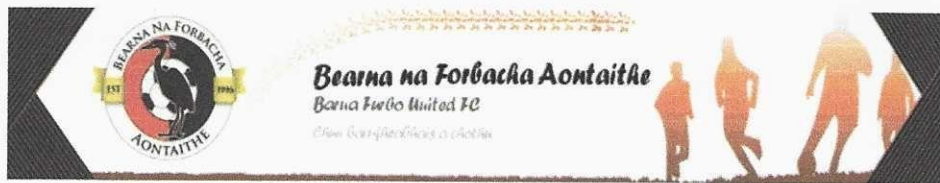
3. The scope of the Policy:

3.1. The Policy is established to ensure the interests of Children, Young Persons and Vulnerable Persons participating in football is of paramount importance.

3.2. The Policy is also to ensure all Members are aware of the negative impact social media can have on our all members and give guidance on how to avoid them.

3.3. Breach of the Policy may be dealt with using the disciplinary procedures which apply to each organisation and, in serious cases, may be treated as gross misconduct leading to a Stand Down Order, ban from membership of the Club/ FAI and / or dismissal.

3.4. The Policy is approved by the Executive of the Club. Proposals for additions and / or amendments to the Policy are considered by the Child Welfare and Safeguarding Committee on an ongoing basis.



Bearn na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

4. Responsibility for implementation of the Policy:

- 4.1. The Club has overall responsibility for the effective operation of the Policy.
- 4.2. Each individual is responsible for their own compliance with the Policy and for ensuring that it is consistently applied.

5. Personal use of Social Media sites:

The Club 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.
2. Your personal views should not conflict with your existing role in football. 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 Club and its members

6. Using social media:

- 6.1. When making use of any Social Media platform, you must read and comply with its terms of use.
- 6.2. Do not upload, post, or forward any content belonging to a third party unless you have that third party's consent. For example, do not discuss colleagues, competitors, coaches and / or players without their prior approval.
- 6.3. Avoid publishing your contact details where they can be accessed and used widely by people you did not intend to see them, and never publish anyone else's contact details.
- 6.4. Do not engage with irate players, parents, or coaches on a public forum. Organise a meeting to allow all parties to discuss possible outcomes.



Berna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

6.5. If you are a manager, coach, club official, referee, or medic you should not:

1. accept any player or referee who is under eighteen as a friend on your personal Social Media page.
2. communicate with any person under eighteen through social media, text message, phone, or email.

6.6. All communications concerning under eighteen's should be made through parents / guardians. It is important to ensure all communications relate to specific club matters e.g., fixtures, training etc.

6.7 All players, coaches/mentors & parents/guardians associated with Berna na Forbacha Aontaithe are expected to comply in full with their respective club code of conduct, this extends to social media use.

7. Setting up and running a Social Media page

7.1. Do not use personal details to set up your organisations Social Media page. You should for example use the organisation's email address. All account log in details should be kept safe and secure to avoid hacking.

7.2. When setting up an email address and / or Social Media page for your organisation (for example, a club website), it should be accessible by at least three administrators. These administrators should be responsible for up-loading content and monitoring posts on the site. If any of these administrators or any other person are behaving inappropriately their access should be removed immediately.

7.3. It is important to ensure everyone within the Club is aware of who is administering our Social Media page(s).

7.4. Each administrator should be familiar with the privacy and safety settings on the Social Media page to ensure it is for use by the Club only & are expected to abide by the club code of conduct for players/volunteers and/or parent/guardian.

7.5. Do not accept anyone under the age of eighteen on our Social Media page. Report underage users to the Child's parents or the Social Media outlet.

7.6. Any user under the age of eighteen looking to join your Social Media page should have provided written parental/ guardian consent in advance.



Bearna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

7.7. No images or personal information of under eighteen's should be posted online without prior written consent from each parent / guardian. It is critical that no user is asked to post any personal details of under eighteen's as certain information could be used to identify or locate them.

7.8. To avoid any inappropriate material appearing on our Social Media page you should enable the appropriate privacy settings. This will allow you to manage the content on the club's Social Media page to avoid any distress or reputational damage.

7.9. The content on our page should be accurate and up to date and any material that is no longer required should be removed.

7.10. Any inappropriate use, such as bullying, is strictly prohibited, and should be reported to the Children's Officer within the Club.

7.11. Misuse of social media, in certain circumstances, constitute a criminal offence and suspicious behaviour towards under eighteen's should be reported to the Club and Statutory Authorities.

7.12. If you are unsure about something you are about to post, then you should not do it. Always consider who will be able to view it and if in doubt, always discuss it with the Children's Officer within your organisation.

8. Photography & Filming:

8.1. There are inherent risks in posting personal information about Children or Vulnerable Persons as it can lead to being able to identify them 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 it is essential that written consent is received from every Child's parent / guardian before any photography or filming takes place. This should be obtained using an appropriate consent form.
2. Children's names or additional detailed information about them must not accompany any image or video. Before up-loading any images or videos of Children, written consent must be received from each parent / guardian.



Berna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

3. Any person filming or taking photographs must be Garda vetted and have completed a relevant FAI approved Safeguarding 1 basic awareness training course.
4. If a Child within the Club is under a court order or is in the care of the Child & Family Agency (Tusla) / HSE, their image must not be placed in the public domain.
5. Ensure that Children are appropriately dressed and only allow images to be taken on the field of play. Photographing / filming must not take place in areas of personal privacy such as, changing rooms, showers, toilets, and bedrooms.
6. Camera phone/ use of any recording or photography device is strictly prohibited in all changing rooms, showers, or toilets.”
7. If an individual who is engaged in filming / photography presents a sincere concern or an immediate danger, please report the issue to your local Garda station or Tusla.

8.2. 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 & requested to comply with same.

8.3. Specific details concerning the Policy in relation to photography and filming will, wherever possible, be published prominently and announced over the public-address system, prior to the start of an event.

8.4. The Club will never allow unsupervised access to Children, one to one photo sessions or photo sessions outside the event or at a Child’s home.



Bearna na Forbacha Aontaithe social media Policy

This policy was ratified by Bearna na Forbacha Executive Members on 25/5/2022

Agreed & signed by Aengus Byrne on 25/5/2022
Aengus Byrne
Chairperson

For and on behalf of the Executive of Bearna na Forbacha Aontaithe.