



## MANDURAH NETBALL ASSOCIATION

### CYBERSAFETY POLICY

#### **Definitions**

**"Affiliated Clubs"** means a Club, Schools or individual teams, Affiliated with the Mandurah Netball Association, which may include players, teams, clubs or organisations (howsoever described).

**'Cybersafety'** refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.

**'ICT'** means Information and Communication Technologies.

**'ICT devices/equipment'** includes, but is not limited to, computers, desktops, laptops, PDAs, storage devices, USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players, cameras, video, digital, webcams, all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers, portable CD and DVD players, Gaming Consoles, and any other similar technologies as they come into use.

**"Organising Body"** means the organiser of a netball Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event including but, not limited to Mandurah Netball Association and Affiliated Clubs.

**"Registered player / member"** means a person registered as a financial member of Mandurah Netball Association, an Affiliated Club, or Netball WA who is therefore eligible to participate in a netball Tournament, Competition, Activity or Event conducted by an Organising Body. A Registered Player/Member is subject to the Netball WA Competition Regulations.

**"Spectator"** shall have the same meaning as in MNA Racial and Religious Tolerance Policy

**"MNA"** means Mandurah Netball Association.

## **1. Introduction**

The Mandurah Netball Association (MNA) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for league officials, staff, registered players, umpires, coaches, club members, parents, spectators and sponsors. This responsibility is increasingly being linked to the use of the Internet and Information & Communication Technologies (ICT), and has seen the emergence of a number of related Cybersafety issues. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to all users and to the effective operation of MNA and affiliated clubs.

MNA 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 can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, and even illegal behaviour and activities. MNA aims, therefore, to maximise the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time to minimise the dangers and manage the risks.

## **2. Underlying Principles**

The policy is written in light of the Mission Statement of MNA whereby MNA aims:

**“To provide a safe and friendly playing environment with competitions to allow athletes of all ages or backgrounds to compete without fear of discrimination or harassment of any kind”.**

## **3. Policy**

MNA and its affiliated clubs will develop 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 MNA its affiliated clubs or Organising Body whilst minimising and managing any risks.

MNA 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 Association and/or club name, motto, crest, logo and/or uniform must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for the Association or affiliated club and its members. Members of MNA and its Affiliated Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the Associations expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with officials, coaches, umpires, players, parents, spectators and sponsors. Players will not post inappropriate comments about individual MNA or club members which if said in person during the playing of a game would result in disciplinary action being taken.

“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. Police will be informed immediately the Association becomes aware of this situation.

<https://www.police.wa.gov.au/Crime/Technology-crime/Cyber-bullying>

#### **4. Breaches of Policy**

Registered Members of MNA, Members of Affiliated Clubs or any Organising Body must not:

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

where:

- I. If said in person during the conduct of a netball game, would result in disciplinary action being taken; or
- II. Such posting would be in breach of the MNA Policies & Procedures; or
- III. Such posting would be in breach of the MNA Racial and Religious Tolerance Policy; or
- IV. Such posting is in breach of this policy

## **5. Procedure**

MNA and/or affiliated club officials or members who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident to the relevant club/Association representative.

All reports of Cyberbullying and other technology misuses will be investigated fully in accordance with MNA Policies & Procedures and may result in a notification to Police where MNA or the club is legally obliged to do so.

If the MNA Board receives a complaint about an online issue, the allegations will be forwarded to the Association Complaints Officer as defined in Section 4 of the MNA Racial and Religious Tolerance Policy. The Association Complaints Officer shall have the same powers in relation to this policy as in Section 6 of the above mentioned MNA Racial and Religious Tolerance Policy.

If there is evidence, charges are laid and the complaint proceeds to the Association Tribunal it will be considered exactly the same as if the investigation relates to physical violence or other reportable offences.

## **6. Penalties**

Any proven charges at the Association tribunal hearing will automatically lead to a minimum of a two (2) match suspension for a registered player. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the club or Association and the prior good history or otherwise of the player. Players charged with these types of offences for a second or subsequent time and where a suspension has been previously imposed will face deregistration.

Any player presented before the tribunal for the first or subsequent time on a Cyberbullying offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.

In the case of a non-playing club member or spectator being proved to have engaged in harassment or bullying, the club employing, engaging or otherwise associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and shall pay to the Association a penalty to be determined by the Association.

## **Monitoring and Review of the Policy**

The Policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Association Executive and may be altered or replaced as required by the Association Executive.