Fosse Falcons Rugby Social Media and Photography Policy – April 2025

Creating a Social Media and Photography Policy is a great way to ensure a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all involved, especially when it comes to young athletes. Please take the time to read this and sign if you agree. Please return the signed copy to your coach.

1. Introduction
Fosse Falcons is committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all our athletes, coaches, and families. As part of our commitment, we have developed the following Social Media and Photography Policy. This policy is designed to protect the privacy, safety, and well-being of all our members while also encouraging a positive and respectful online presence for the club.

2. Photography Guidelines

- **Consent:** All photos and videos taken during club activities (matches, training sessions, events) require prior consent from the parents/guardians of players under 18. This will be obtained and stored on Spond.
- **Coaches and Staff:** Club coaches, staff, and volunteers should only take photos or videos when appropriate and with the consent of the athletes and their guardians.
- **Appropriate Use:** Photos and videos should always be respectful and reflect the values of the club. Images and videos should avoid any inappropriate, intrusive, or harmful content. Photos will always be of the activity and the team, not of one individual.
- **Distribution:** Photos and videos taken by coaches, staff, or volunteers may be shared on official club platforms, such as the website, social media, or newsletters. However, the club will ensure that no personal information (e.g., player's full name, contact details, etc.) is shared without explicit consent.
- **Privacy:** Players and their families have the right to request that images or videos of a specific individual be removed from public platforms, and such requests will be honoured.
- **Fixtures and Tournaments:** When clubs meet for fixtures/festivals it is recommended that confirmation is obtained from each club that parental permission has been given for all the children participating. If there is a child who should not have their photograph taken, this should be addressed before the event.

3. Social Media Guidelines

- **Club's Official Accounts:** The official social media accounts of Fosse Falcons are managed by designated individuals. These accounts are used to promote positive club activities, such as achievements, events, and training sessions. The club will ensure that all content shared is respectful and appropriate.

- **Personal Social Media Accounts of Coaches and Volunteers:** Coaches and volunteers should not share any confidential or sensitive information about players, teams, or events on their personal social media accounts.
- **Players' Personal Social Media Accounts:** Players are encouraged to use social media responsibly and should be reminded to consider their online presence. While the club respects the personal privacy of players, we urge them to avoid sharing inappropriate or harmful content related to their involvement in the club. We also encourage players to be mindful of the impact their posts may have on others.
- **Harassment, Bullying, and Disrespect:** The club has a zero-tolerance policy for bullying, harassment, or any form of disrespectful behaviour, whether online or offline. If any club member experiences or witnesses inappropriate behaviour on social media platforms, they should report it immediately to a coach, club administrator, or designated responsible adult. The club will take appropriate action to address such incidents.
- **Hashtags and Tags:** Players, parents, and staff are encouraged to use positive and appropriate hashtags when sharing content about the club on social media (e.g., #fossefalcons, #girlsplayrugbytoo #womeninsport). Content should always reflect the values of respect, integrity, and sportsmanship.

4. Defining Social Media

- We have a number of social media sources which we take advantage of. The following are examples of what we currently use but does not constitute an exhaustive list:

• Facebook groups
• Facebook pages
• Instagram
• TikTok
• WhatsApp groups

There may be others which are not named here, but these should be considered to be electronic communication where individuals can interact online, be it within applications or on web pages, where the banner includes the Club's name or branding, in part or in full.

5. Parental and Guardian Involvement

- **Monitoring:** Parents and guardians are encouraged to be active in monitoring their child's social media activity to ensure that it aligns with the values of the club and promotes a positive environment.
- **Permission to Post:** Parents and guardians must give consent for their child to be photographed or featured in videos. The club will respect the wishes of parents who choose to limit or not give consent for media exposure.

6. Enforcement and Reporting

- **Reporting Concerns:** If there are concerns about the misuse of social media or inappropriate photography, please contact your coach, or any other relevant club official. The club takes all complaints seriously and will take necessary actions to resolve any issues promptly.

- **Consequences for Misuse:** Any misuse of social media, including bullying, inappropriate posts, or harassment related to the club, may result in disciplinary actions, including a warning, suspension, or removal from the club, depending on the severity of the issue.

7. Policy Review
This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect changes in technology, legal requirements, or best practices. All updates will be communicated to members of the club.

Acknowledgment of Policy
By agreeing to this policy, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the Fosse Falcons Girls Rugby Social Media and Photography Policy. You agree to adhere to the guidelines set forth in this policy and will encourage others to do the same.

This policy ensures that both the players' safety and privacy are protected while still promoting the positive aspects of social media and photography.

Fosse Falcons Girls Rugby Media Consent

1. Purpose of Consent

As part of the activities and events of the Fosse Falcons Girls Rugby, photographs, videos, or other media may be taken of players during games, practices, events, and training sessions. These images may be used for promotional purposes, including, but not limited to, social media, newsletters, the club's website, and local press coverage.

2. Consent for Photography & Video Recording

By agreeing to this policy:

I give permission for photographs or videos of my child to be taken during club activities.

I give permission for photographs or videos of my child to be used in club-related publications, including the website, social media accounts, newsletters, and press releases.

3. Social Media Consent

By agreeing to this policy I understand and consent to the club's use of images and videos featuring my child on the club's official social media platforms (such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok etc.) for the purpose of promoting the club and its activities. I also acknowledge that the club will ensure no personal information (e.g., my child's full name or contact details) is shared without explicit permission.

4. Privacy Rights

I understand that I have the right to withdraw my consent at any time. If I wish to do so, I will firstly speak to the coach then inform the club in writing. Any photos or videos that have already been published may remain in circulation unless I request their removal, and the club will take reasonable steps to remove them.

5. Confirmation of Understanding

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the contents of this Media Consent. I confirm that I am the parent/guardian of the child in question and that I have the legal authority to provide consent on their behalf.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your coach. Thank you for supporting Fosse Falcons Girls Rugby!