

Acceptable Use Policy for Members

An **Acceptable Use Policy** defines appropriate use of computer equipment and the internet for both staff and members, as approved by the Board of Directors and signed by each staff member and placed in their membership file.

Responsible Computer Use Guidelines for Members

Boys & Girls Clubs' ("Club" or "Clubs") computer network and internet access are available to members to enhance their educational experience and help them become literate in an increasingly technological world.

The purpose of this Acceptable Use Policy is to foster the appropriate use of that network, email and the internet. The following guidelines apply to all users, whenever they access any of the Clubs' network connections.

Educational Purpose

The Clubs' network has been established for educational purposes limited to classroom activities, school-to-career development and scholastic research on appropriate subjects.

The Clubs' network has not been established as a public access service or a public forum. The Club has the right to place reasonable restrictions on the material members access or post through the system. Members are expected to follow this Acceptable Use Policy (as well as other Club rules and policies applicable to members) when in the Technology Center or accessing the network.

The Clubs' network is considered a limited forum, similar to a school and, therefore, the Club reserves the right to regulate that forum for valid educational reasons. The Club will not restrict speech on the basis of a disagreement with opinions you, the members, are expressing.

You should expect only limited privacy with the content of your personal files on the Clubs' network. This situation is similar to the rights you have in the privacy of your locker at school.

The Club reserves the right to search your files, if there is a reasonable suspicion you violated this Acceptable Use Policy, Club rules and policies, or the law.

Media Policy

For Members:

- **Consent:** Parents or guardians must opt in or out of consent for media capture and use during the registration process or at events where media may be taken.
- **No Unauthorized Recording:** Members are not allowed to take photos or videos of staff or other members without consent.
- **Media Projects:** When members are participating in media-related club activities (e.g., photography workshops), all images or videos must respect the privacy and rights of others.

Club Technology Policy

For Members:

- **Personal Devices:** Personal devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets) should not be used during club activities unless permitted by a staff member for educational or emergency purposes.
 - **Internet:** Personal devices **must** be connected to the club internet to better ensure access to inappropriate content is prohibited through use of firewalls and content moderation controls.
- **Responsible Use:** Members are responsible for their devices. The club is not liable for lost or damaged devices.
- **Gaming Systems:**
 - **Allowed Games:** Only games approved by the club are allowed to be played on club gaming systems. Games should be rated **E (Everyone)** or **E10+** to ensure they are appropriate for all ages, unless otherwise approved by club leadership for older age groups.
 - **Content Restrictions:** Violent, graphic, or inappropriate games are strictly prohibited. Games that promote teamwork, problem-solving, and creativity are encouraged.
 - **Online Multiplayer:** Text and voice chat should be disabled on any games during online multiplayer on a **public** server. Text and voice chat is allowed and should be moderated by staff members during online multiplayer on a **private** server between club sites
 - **Time Limits:** Gaming sessions should be time-limited to ensure members have time to participate in other club activities. Typically, gaming time will be limited to 30-60 minutes per session, depending on the activity schedule.
 - **Respect for Equipment:** Members must handle all gaming equipment (consoles, controllers, etc.) with care. Damaging equipment may result in loss of gaming privileges.
 - **Behavior:** Any inappropriate behavior (e.g., unsportsmanlike conduct, bullying) while gaming will result in immediate suspension from gaming privileges.

Unacceptable Uses and Personal Safety

You must not post personal contact information about yourself or other people. Personal contact information includes (but is not limited to) home, school or work addresses; telephone numbers; and email addresses.

You must never agree to meet with someone you have met online without your parent's approval. A parent or guardian should always accompany you to such meetings.

You must promptly disclose to a Club staff member any message you receive that is inappropriate or makes you feel uncomfortable.

Illegal Activities

You must not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the Clubs' network, or to any other computer system through the Clubs' network. This includes attempting to log in through another person's account or accessing another person's files. These actions are illegal, even if only for the purpose of "browsing."

You must not make deliberate attempts to disrupt the computer system or destroy data by spreading computer viruses.

You must not use the Clubs' network to engage in any illegal act, including, but not limited to, arranging for the purchase or sale of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs; engaging in criminal activity; or threatening the safety of another person.

System Security

You are responsible for your individual user account and should take all reasonable precautions to prevent others from being able to use your account. Under no circumstances should you provide your password to another person.

You must immediately notify a Club staff member if you have identified or witnessed a possible security problem.

Do not look for security problems, because this may be construed as an illegal attempt to gain access.

Inappropriate Use

Restrictions against inappropriate use apply to public message, private message and material posted on web pages. Within reason, freedom of speech and access to information will be honored.

The following are not permitted:

- Sending or displaying unkind or offensive messages or pictures, pornography or hate literature
- Using unkind or obscene language
- Harassing, insulting or attacking others
- Intentionally damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
- Violating copyright laws
- Using another person's password
- Trespassing into another person's folders, work or files
- Intentionally wasting limited resources (i.e., distributing mass email messages, participating in chain letters, creating or participating in unauthorized newsgroups, and storing files on file servers without proper authorization)

- Employing the network for commercial purposes, political activities or lobbying
- Installing additional software without prior approval
- Using portal or proxy websites

Violations may result in the loss of access, as well as other disciplinary or legal action.

Respect for Privacy

You must not re-post a message that was sent to you privately, without the permission of the person who sent the message.

You must not post private information about another person.

Plagiarism and Copyright Infringement

You must not plagiarize works you find on the internet. Plagiarism is taking ideas, writing or pictures of others and presenting them as your own. It is dishonorable, and it is a prohibited use of this facility.

You must respect the rights of copyright owners. Copyright infringement occurs when you reproduce a work that is protected by a copyright without authorization. If a work contains language that specifies appropriate use of that work, you should follow the expressed requirements. Copyright law can be confusing; therefore, if you have any questions, please ask a teacher or Club staff member.

Disciplinary Actions

Members who violate the Acceptable Use Policy may be denied future internet and/or network privileges for a defined period of time, and may be subject to other disciplinary measures as set forth by Club policies.

By signing below, I agree that I have read, understand and will abide by these regulations.

Member's Name: _____ Date: _____

As the parent/guardian, I acknowledge I have reviewed and read these rules and regulations with my child.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

