



## ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION & USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY POLICY

### Our Commitment

Using the internet and electronic communication is essential for communicating with the Association's members. We are committed to communication being appropriate and related to Association business.

### What We Will Do

When using technology we will ensure that member's privacy is protected, clear boundaries are maintained and bullying and harassment does not occur.

### Website

- Information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws will be placed on our website.
- No offensive content or photos will be uploaded to our website, especially about social activities and events.
- Permission will be sought from individuals, and in the case of children permission from their parents, to upload photos displaying their image onto the website. Care will be taken not to provide information of a personal nature or contact details.
- A web master will be appointed to provide accountability and control over what goes onto our website and, where approved, other official electronic pages/tools (eg Facebook).

### SMS & Emails

Association committee members and officials, coaches and team managers may use SMS (mobile text) and email to communicate Association business and sanctioned events, however:

- text communication should be short and about Association/team matters.
- email communication will be used when more information is required.

### Facebook

- Postings and uploading of videos will feature positive Association news and events.
- Personal information about members will not be disclosed.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure the reputation of another person.
- No statements will be made that might bring our Association into disrepute.
- Members (including parents/guardians) will not engage in negative or destructive discussions or postings.

### What We Ask You To Do

All members (including parents/guardians) are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately, so think about what you want to say before you write it. Remember, an email is a written record of your thoughts on a matter and can be used against you later.

Communication by the Association and members (including parents/guardians) should be:



- restricted to Association matters.
- must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member
- must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of the Association, its members or others
- should seek to protect the privacy of members
- must not bring the Association into disrepute.

## Non Compliance

Any Association member (including parents/guardians) found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate website content or engaged in blogs or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate members, may face disciplinary action as outlined in our Member Protection Policy, Behaviour Management Policy and Child Protection Strategy.

Cyber bullying (eg bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or web pages) under certain circumstances is a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the police. The Association can also initiate separate action where there has been a breach of our state sporting organisation and/or Association's member protection or other policies that provide for the protection, safety and welfare of members.

Members (including parents/guardians) publishing false or misleading comments about the Association, members or another person in the public domain (eg Facebook, group email distribution, blog websites, etc) may be liable for defamation.

To report a breach of this policy, refer to the Complaints Procedure and Policy.

## Evaluation and Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Executive Committee as part of the annual policy review prior to the start of each season.