



## VHA SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

All members and officials of clubs affiliated with the Victorian Homing Association (referred to hereafter as VHA or Association) along with members of the VHA executive committee or those performing in a representative role with the Association are expected to abide by the following policy.

### **Our Commitment**

Using the internet and electronic communication is essential for communicating with club, members and the general public. We are committed to communication being appropriate and related to relevant business.

### **What We Will Do**

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

### **Website, SMS, Emails, Face book & Twitter**

Information on races, 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 race liberation decisions, executive committee decisions, social activities and events.
- The website & face book manager and VHA Secretary will provide accountability and control over what goes onto our website and monitor Face book and other social media pages.
- May be used to communicate business and sanctioned events and or promotions.
- Text communication should be short and about relevant matters only.
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure the reputation of the VHA or another person.
- No statements will be made that might bring our sport into disrepute.

### **What We Must Ask Members To Do**

All members are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately, so think about what you want to say before you write it. Rule of thumb – **If you are not prepared to post your message to your mother, then don't send it.**



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- Remember, an Email, Face book or Twitter (and any other form of electronic written media) is a written record of your thoughts on a matter and can be used against you later.
- Communication (including photos and video)
- Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member/club or association.
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of any member/club or association.
- Should seek to protect the privacy of members.
- Must not bring the sport, member club or association into disrepute.

### Non Compliance

Any member or club found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate website content or engaged in blogs/podcasts or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member/club or association may face disciplinary action from the Executive Committee as outlined in our constitution or by laws.

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 may be a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the police.

The Association, Member or Club can also initiate separate action where there has been a breach of this policy.

Members publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (eg Face book or websites) may be liable for defamation.

“Member” means club, official or individual.

Any member of the VHA Committee investigating or making a determination of guilt against a member of the VHA, and who is also a member of the same club as the offending member, is ineligible to participate in such investigation or determination, due to a possible conflict of interest.

**Offending members may be dealt with by the VHA Executive Committee as they see fit.**