

Social Media Policy

Adopted – September 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Baseball WA acknowledges the emergence of new technology and communication media and wishes to encourage the use of social media for the benefit of the sport and its participants. Baseball WA also recognises that its members need some level of protection from possible threats of vilification and/or cyber bullying through such social media channels. Hence this policy document outlines the recommendations and restrictions when discussing Baseball WA related matters on a public forum like social media and the subsequent punishment process for members who have been found to be non-compliant.

WHAT BASEBALL WA & ASSOCIATED CLUBS NEED TO DO

When using technology Baseball WA and its associated clubs need to ensure that members' privacy is protected, clear boundaries are maintained, and bullying and harassment does not occur.

Website

- (i) Information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws will be placed on the Baseball WA webpage and audited in accordance with the Governance Policy.
- (ii) No offensive content or photos will be uploaded to Baseball WA or its associated clubs' webpages.
- (iii) Any YouTube video postings will feature positive team performances and require the consent of all featured individuals.
- (iv) Permission will be sought from parents/guardians to upload photos of their children, and care will be taken not to provide information that identifies them.
- (v) A dedicated web master will be appointed to provide accountability and control over what goes on Baseball WA and associated clubs' webpages.

SMS and Emails

- (i) Baseball WA, club committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to communicate club business and club sanctioned social events.
- (ii) Text communication should be short and only about club/team matters.
- (iii) Email communication should be used when more information is required.
- (iv) Communication about children should only be made through parents, using only their email/phone number.

Facebook

- (i) Postings and uploading of videos will only feature positive club news and events and should gain the consent of all featured individuals.
- (ii) Personal information about members will not be disclosed.
- (iii) No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure the reputation of another person.
- (iv) No statements will be made that might bring the game of baseball in WA into disrepute.

- (v) Destructive or negative users must be deleted and blocked from engaging with any Baseball WA related forum.

WHAT WE ASK OUR MEMBERS TO DO

When using technology based forums Baseball WA members are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately following the below rules and recommendations.

Rules

- (i) Communication should not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member of the Baseball WA community and its subsequent clubs / associations. This includes the WA Scorers and WA Umpires Associations.
- (ii) Communication must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of members or others.
- (iii) Communication should seek to protect the privacy of members and others.
- (iv) Communication must not bring the sport or Baseball WA and its associated clubs into disrepute.
- (v) Members should not engage in negative or destructive discussions or postings.
- (vi) Abusive, harassing, discriminatory or offensive communication should not be posted.

Recommendations

- (i) Do not use personal information of yourself in any social media channel.
- (ii) Use your best judgment.
- (iii) Refrain from posting/writing if you're feeling emotional or upset or are intoxicated.
- (iv) Always ask for a person's permission before posting their picture on a social networking forum.
- (v) Never comment on rumours, do not deny or affirm them or speculate about rumours.
- (vi) Only use social media channels to promote the sport/club in a positive light.
- (vii) If you feel you have been vilified on a Baseball WA related matter through social media then you're encouraged to contact the Baseball WA front office.

Non-Compliant Members

Baseball WA treats the misuse of social media as a serious breach and as such noncompliant members may be subject to the following disciplinary measures:

- (i) Any Baseball WA member found to have clearly broken one of the above mentioned rules may face disciplinary action as outlined in our Anti-vilification and Anti-harassment policies and immediately banned from posting on Baseball WA related pages.
- (ii) Any Baseball WA member found to have clearly broken one of the above mentioned rules may be asked to front questioning from the Baseball WA board and face subsequent disciplinary action.

Members publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain may also be liable for defamation and face charges i