

Tasmanian Softball Council Inc.  
T/A Softball Tasmania

## **e-COMMUNICATION (Social Media) POLICY**

### **Our commitment**

Electronic communication is essential for sharing club news and information with our members. Our communication will be timely, appropriate and related to League/Club business.

Softball Tasmania wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property. Respect is defined as consideration for another's physical and emotional well-being and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to either.

### **What we will do**

We use a range of electronic tools to communicate with our members. Our communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and do all to ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

### **Website**

A webmaster has been appointed to provide accountability and control over material published on our website and any related discussion groups or social media websites, such as Facebook, YouTube or Twitter.

Our website will include current information on competitions, social events, committees, policies and rules.

If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents/guardian and take care not to provide identifying information. No offensive content or photos will be published.

We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

### **SMS and email**

Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about competition, training, club-sanctioned social events and other club business, however: SMS messages should be short and about club/team matters email communication will be used when more information is required communication involving children will be directed through their parents.

### **Social media websites**

We treat all social media postings, blogs, status updates and tweets as public 'comment'. Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive club news and events. No

personal information about our members will be disclosed. No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation. No statements will be made that might bring our club into disrepute. Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will

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be blocked from the site.

***Coaches and others who work with children and young people must direct electronic communication through the child's parents/guardian.***

### **What we ask you to do**

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the club/league. BUTBL requires members to take responsibility for their own words and for the comments allowed on their sites or forums.

Electronic communication:

- should be restricted to club matters
- must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person
- must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person
- should respect and maintain the privacy of members
- must not bring the club into disrepute.

We ask our members not to post anything online that they wouldn't say in person and to make every effort to connect privately before they respond publicly.

### **Non-compliance**

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct. Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police. In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g., Facebook, YouTube or Twitter) may be liable for defamation.

Softball Tasmania encourages all members to **“think before posting”**. Members should recognize that even if posting to a private section of a social networking site comments can appear in public areas through a variety of means and can easily be found. Members should avoid posting something they will regret now or later.

For further detail refer to the eCOMMUNICATION Policy on the Softball Australia web-site.