

## **Social Media/Networking Policy**

### **1. Outlining Principles**

Speedway Sedan Australia (SSA) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment within the organisation for Association Officials, Stewards, Technical Personnel, Registered Drivers, State Branches, Club Members, Volunteers, Tracks, Spectators and Sponsors. The responsibility is not entirely confined to the race track and/or at race meetings.

The SSA takes seriously its responsibility in providing guidelines and a policy for its members in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online ethics and behaviours. Members of the SSA, State Associations and Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are aligned with the Associations expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with designated officials, technical personnel, track personnel, drivers, pit crews, parents, spectators and sponsors.

Social Media Misconduct includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of networking; harassing, intimidating or threatening another person by means of posting or sending inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, images or website posting including those social networking sites such as facebook, twitter etc. and is irrespective of whether the page could be viewed by a broader community or not.

All persons must also be aware that postings, comments and/or messages from ones individual account, IT tool or mobile phone, whether actioned by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.

### **2. Procedure**

If a member of the SSA or State/Club affiliated association wishes to make a report and/or complaint about an online issue, the established procedures listed below must be followed.

1. A report and/or complaint made during the conduct of a race meeting and directly linked to that race meeting will be made directly in writing to the Chief Steward and will be subject to an investigation by the Chief Steward and may be subject to a stewards hearing or referred to the SSA Disciplinary Tribunal.
2. A report and/or complaint made outside of a race meeting will be made in writing to the relevant State Secretary. Providing there is sufficient evidence, the lodged complaint will then proceed to the SSA Disciplinary Tribunal within three (3) working days.
3. All members of the SSA, State Associations and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where action has transpired to criminal meaning or a crime may have been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by the relevant authority (police) over which the associations and/or club will have no control.

### **3. Penalties**

Any driver presented before the Disciplinary Tribunal on a social media misconduct or online abuse offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal are not limited to but include a complete deregistration or suspension of the SSA Licence/Infringement card.

Any proven charges determined by the Disciplinary Tribunal will automatically lead to a minimum of a three (3) month SSA Licence /Infringement Card suspension for registered drivers. Consideration will be given to the seriousness of the issue, the impact on not only the offended individual, but the SSA, the State Association, club and/or track in deciding the final penalty.

In the case of a non licence/Infringement card holder (i.e. parent, sibling, club member, pit crew, friend etc.) being proved to have engaged in online misconduct, the licensed driver engaging or otherwise directly associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be liable for the conduct of the person and will be charged and penalised as determined by the Chief Steward of the race meeting or a Disciplinary Tribunal.