



## Association, Club & Player Policy

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# COMMUNICATION POLICY

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### Our commitment

Electronic communication is essential for sharing association and club news and for sharing information amongst and with all members. All communication will be timely, appropriate and related to club and or association business.

### What we will do

We use a range of electronic tools to communicate with our members, and amongst player and club groups.

Our communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

An Administrator will be appointed by each peak stakeholder body to provide accountability and control over material published on our websites and any related discussion groups or social media websites, such as Facebook, YouTube or Twitter, etc.

### Website

- Our websites will include current information on teams, competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws.
- No offensive content or photos will be published.
- If we intend to publish a photo of a child, we will first seek permission from his or her parents and take care not to provide identifying information.
- We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on all sites.

### SMS and email

Members of Committees, Sub Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about teams, competitions, training, club-sanctioned social events and other associations and club business, however:

- SMS messages should be short and about association/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'.
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- Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive association, club and player 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 Baseball Victoria, member associations or clubs into disrepute.
- Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from these sites.

## 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, or affiliated with Baseball Victoria.

Electronic communication:

- should be restricted to club and or association 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 and or association into disrepute.

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

## 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. This may also include being brought before the judiciary of the Baseball Victoria affiliated Association or League.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, Facebook, twitter, 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.

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I, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) have read and understood the policy and will abide by it as a member of Baseball Victoria.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If under 18 years of age, parent/guardian:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) have read and understood the policy and approve of Baseball Victoria to take photos of my child \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name) and publish photos on official Baseball Victoria communication platforms.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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