



Australian Karting Association of South Australia Inc.

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Social Media/Networking Policy

Outlining Principles

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

The **AKASA** 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 **AKASA**, 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, industry personnel 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.

Procedure

If a member of the **AKASA** or 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 dealt with using the current KA rule book.
2. A report and/or complaint made outside of a race meeting will be made in writing to the State Secretary. Providing there is sufficient evidence, the lodged complaint will then proceed to the **AKASA** Disciplinary Tribunal within three (3) weeks (21 days).
3. All members of the **AKASA** 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.

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 **Karting Australia (KA)** Licence/Membership.

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

In the case of a non licenced individual (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.