



South West Soccer Association

In conjunction with Football West

Social Media Policy

The South West Soccer Association and Football West acknowledges the emergence of new technology and communication mediums (**Social Media**), and wishes to enable such Social Media to be used to benefit football and its participants in Western Australia.

Participants within football, however, need to be mindful of the possibility of Social Media being used inappropriately. Inappropriate use may occur unintentionally or when participants do not realise that their comments, once published are in a public forum, and are difficult to retract.

Social Media platforms include:

- a) social networking sites, including Facebook, MySpace and LinkedIn;
- b) video and photo sharing websites including Flickr and YouTube;
- c) micro-blogging sites such as Twitter;
- d) weblogs including personal blogs or blogs hosted by traditional media publications;
- e) forums and discussion boards including those operated by Fox Sports, FourFourTwo, The World Game or, locally, The Bayswater Forum and Glory Boys;
- f) online encyclopaedias, such as Wikipedia; and
- g) any other web site that allow individual users or companies to use simple publishing tools.

The South West Soccer Association and Football West recommends that users of Social Media:

- a) do not include personal information of yourself or others in Social Media channels;
- b) do not use offensive, provocative or hateful language in Social Media channels;
- c) use your best judgment – do not publish something that makes you the slightest bit uncomfortable, and never write/ publish if you are feeling emotional or upset (or are intoxicated);
- d) always ask for a person's permission before posting their picture on Social Media platform;
- e) never comment on rumours, do not deny or affirm them or speculate about rumours in Social Media channels; and
- f) always use Social Media/ network forums to add value and promote football in a positive way.

While The South West Soccer Association and Football West respects everybody's right to free speech and encourages open discussion to promote the game, it reserves the right to act where it considers that individuals have overstepped the mark and brought the game into disrepute.

Punishment and penalties may include:

- ☐ a reprimand;
- ☐ a fine;
- ☐ place the club or an individual on a bond;
- ☐ a loss of competition points;
- ☐ ban on the registration or transfer of any Players for a specified period of time;
- ☐ annulment of registration of a Player;
- ☐ termination of a player's contract;
- ☐ suspension from participation in a Match or Matches or any part of a stadium or venue;
- ☐ exclusion, suspension or expulsion from a Competition;
- ☐ playing a match without spectators or on neutral territory;
- ☐ a ban on playing in a particular stadium;
- ☐ annulment of the result of the match;
- ☐ relegation to a lower division;
- ☐ such other disciplinary sanctions or measures as is appropriate in all the circumstances; or
- ☐ a combination of two or more of the above listed sanctions.