

# **THE BRITISH SKEWBALD AND PIEBALD ASSOCIATION**

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY, 2013**

### **POLICY CONTEXT:**

This policy is part of and inclusive with our BSPA Child Protection and Equal Opportunity Policies. As such it should be read in conjunction with them.

The BSPA continues to require that our competitive environment is ***"conducted with fairness and equity wherein respect and tolerance for others is shown by all" and that Children and vulnerable adults should be protected from abuse or exploitation.***

These values are at the heart of our introduction of this "BSPA Social Media and Internet policy 2013.

As is clear from these policies the BSPA will not tolerate any offensive or bullying use of Social Media by either members, Judges or Officials. Nor will we tolerate any discriminatory behaviour or language.

We do not condone nor will we accept any behaviour by either members, Judges or Officials that is not seen as respectful or tolerant to others. Nor will we tolerate any behaviour that could be construed as bullying (cyber bullying included).

We recognise that this relatively new medium is open to abuse of our "Equal Opportunities" values. **It should be noted however, that the laws of 'defamation of character, and libel do now apply to Social Media and networking.**

### **As such:-**

- Any member (Judge or official) observed or considered to be using "Social Media" (Facebook, Twitter, Web/Chat rooms) in a derogatory, offensive or otherwise thoroughly disrespectful manner or to pursue a 'personal vendetta' or to invite such behaviour from others, will be considered by the Board of the BSPA, to have brought themselves into disrepute and as such to be liable to BSPA Disciplinary process or to have their membership revoked, thus losing all the benefits and entitlements of membership.
- Any Person applying for membership or a current BSPA Member, Judge or official whom it can be independently verified, has been the subject of a successful Criminal prosecution, (including a police caution) or has received a Disciplinary sanction from another Society, resulting from abuses as described above, will also become subject to BSPA Disciplinary process or will have their membership revoked. Thus losing all the benefits and entitlements of BSPA membership.
- This sanction will be in place for a minimum of twelve months or two consecutive membership years. Whichever is the longest before any application for membership to the BSPA can be made again.

***BSPA Chairman and Council 21/07/2013***

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY, 2013**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- The BSPA acknowledges the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Linked in, home web-pages, chat rooms, BBM and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which "social media" plays in the day to day lives of members (Judge or official).
- This policy note is to remind members that the Rules of the BSPA apply to ALL members when using social media and the internet. Failure to adhere to this policy could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a member (Judge or official).

### **2. USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

- 2.1** You should be aware that the BSPA may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the BSPA and its members (Judges or officials).
- 2.2** BSPA produced images are the subject of copyright and should not be copied or used in social media save as provided in the BSPA website user terms and conditions.
- 2.3** You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to social media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the BSPA.
- 2.4** You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the BSPA its members or former members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the BSPA
- 2.5** You must not post or transmit any material relating to the BSPA members or former members (Judges or officials) or their horses or ponies, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the BSPA:
  - 2.5.1** Nor post or transmit any material that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience; OR
  - 2.5.2** Nor post or transmit any material which constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the BSPA Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in, the UK or any other country in the world.
- 2.6** Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the BSPA Rules and could also lead to Civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.

### **3. DISCLOSURE UNDER LAW OR REGULATION**

You should be aware that the BSPA will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the BSPA to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this Policy. If we are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, then the BSPA is entitled to do this.

4. **This Policy is effective immediately.**

