

WILLETTON BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (INC)

SOCIAL MEDIA / CYBERSAFETY POLICY

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Document Change Control Table

Version	Revision Date	Revised By	Description
1.0	16/5/2022	Maria McAdam	

WBA has an obligation to ensure that our organization and affiliated clubs and committees maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for club members, coaches, officials, registered players, sponsors, support personnel and umpires.

The internet and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) devices/equipment can bring great benefits to users, and can contribute to the effective operation of WBA and its members through the ability to disseminate information, the ability to promote the sport and clubs and to provide members with the ability to connect with others within WBA.

Responsible use of technology can include:-

- WBA or affiliated club websites providing information about competitions, committees, policies, rules, social events or other important sport related issues.
- Use of SMS, Whatsapp, and/or email by officials, managers, coaches etc to communicate club business and club sanctioned social events (via parents in the case of juniors).
- Use of WBA or affiliated clubs' social network pages to promote positive club news, updates and events.

The provision of a safe sporting environment is no longer confined to the playing field. WBA places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT which will benefit members, recognizing that these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, abusive, threatening and even illegal behaviour and activities. WBA aims, therefore, to maximise the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time minimising the dangers and, where possible, manage the risks.

1.1.1 UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

This policy is written with the underpinning of WBA's core values:

- Our aim to encourage and foster the sport of basketball and other related sporting and recreational activities
- To promote social wellbeing and good fellowship amongst the Members of the Association and within the wider community
- To be "Safe, welcoming and inclusive"

1.1.2 What is Cyberbullying?

"Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others" (Belsey 2007).

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuse of technology:

- harassing, teasing, intimidating or threatening another person via electronic means.
- sending or posting inappropriate digital pictures or images, e-mail messages, instant messages, phone messages, text messages, or website postings (including social network sites e.g. Facebook or blogs) and is irrespective of whether the page could be viewed by the wider public or not. It can also include the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a person.

WBA's membership must be aware that postings, comments and/or messages from their individual accounts such as email, social networking (e.g. Facebook) micro blogging (e.g. Twitter) video sharing (e.g. YouTube), picture sharing (e.g. Instagram, Snapchat) and mobile phones, will remain the responsibility of the account owner unless the account owner can prove that their account has been accessed by an unauthorised person and by a method outside of their control. Members must be vigilant about the security of their account(s) and not allow others to log onto their individual accounts.

In certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may be subjected to a criminal investigation. This particularly applies to 'sexting' where the registered member is in possession of an inappropriate sexualised image of a person under the age of 18 years. In this case the Western Australia Police should be informed immediately.

1.1.3 Policy

These guidelines provide advice and direction in relation to what is considered acceptable electronic communication between and by members of WBA & the wider Stadium community.

1.1.4 Breaches of the Policy

WBA's cybersafety policy will be breached if:-

- WBA's name and/or logo is used in a way that would result in a negative impact for WBA, clubs and/or its members.
- the use of electronic communication between members is considered to be offensive, abusive, harassing, threatening or demeaning towards another person.
- the content of a posting or an electronic message which if said in person during the playing of the game would result in a breach of the rules of the game.
- the posting or sending of an electronic communication would be in breach of WBA's anti-discrimination, racial discrimination, sexual harassment or other similar policy.

- the content of electronic communication is a breach of any state or commonwealth law.

1.1.5 **Procedure for reporting**

Reports of cyberbullying and other online or mobile telephone harassment will be investigated by WBA and may be referred to Police. Notification to WAPOL by either WBA or an individual will not abrogate WBA of its responsibility to investigate a complaint and such investigation may be conducted alongside any Police investigation.

Members of WBA who feel that they have been the victim of such misuse of technology should:-

In the case of sexually explicit material

- save and store the inappropriate/abusive material on their computer, mobile phone or other device (do not print or share this content).
- immediately report the content to WA Police followed by a report to the CEO/Member Protection Officer. Parents should report on behalf of a child.

In the case of other abusive or other content

- save and store the inappropriate/abusive material on their computer, mobile phone or other device.
- print a copy of the material.
- report the content/picture directly to the site (e.g. Facebook or Twitter).
- report the matter to the relevant representative (CEO/Member Protection Officer).

1.1.6 **Resolution Procedures**

The range of processes available to expedite the investigation of a breach of the cybersafety policy will include all current procedures from informal through to formal.

1.1.7 **Penalty**

Under WBA's policies, a proven charge arising from the findings of a disciplinary hearing/tribunal hearing for an online breach of the code of conduct as per this policy may attract one or more of the following penalties:

- Notification to Police and / or Working with Children
- Ban for life from entering Willetton Basketball Stadium, its affiliated venues or other Basketball WA venues
- Cancellation of membership of Willetton Basketball Association (ie member cannot play or enter the association as a member)
- Ban from taking part in any sporting activities at Willetton Basketball Stadium, its affiliated venues or other Basketball WA venues for a specified period

In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the complainant, the impact on basketball, affiliate association and/or club and the prior good history or otherwise of the person.

A member presented before the Member Protection Officer (and subsequent tribunal panel if necessary) on a cyberbullying or online abuse allegation must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal/disciplinary hearing members will cover the complete range available.

In the case of *a non-playing member*, if an allegation is proven, they will be disciplined to the full extent possible which may include, but is not limited to, the removal from the facility, cancellation of club membership, banning attendance at future competition/training/social events etc.

1.1.8 Appeals

To lodge an appeal for a hearing pertaining to any matter listed above refer to the Appeals Procedure section of WBA's Tribunals Procedure (can be found on the WBA website under Policies and procedures, or on request)

Important terms used in this document:

- *The abbreviation 'ICT' in this document refers to the term 'Information and Communication Technologies.'*
- *'Cybersafety' refers to the safe and responsible use of the internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones.*
- *The term 'ICT equipment/devices' used in this document includes but is not limited to computers (desktop, laptop, netbook, PDA's, Tablet), storage devices (such as USB, flash memory devices, CD's, DVD's, floppy discs, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, phone, webcams) all types of mobile phones, gaming consoles and any other, similar technologies as they become available.*

- *The term 'sexting' refers to the act of sending sexually explicit or naked messages or photos/videos electronically, primarily between mobile phones, but can include internet applications such as MSN, Skype, email, or social networking sites.*

Contacts:

- **Australian Communications and Media Authority** - www.acma.gov.au
- **Cybersafety Solutions** – www.cybersafetysolutions.com.au
- **Cybersmart** – www.cybersmart.gov.au
- **Kids Help Line** - www.kidshelp.com.au or 1800 55 1800
- **Western Australia Police:**
 - **General Enquiries – 131 444**
 - **For cyberbullying, online stalking or other technology crimes** - if you believe you are the victim of any form of technology crime please email full details of the incident to the WA Police Assessment Officer at **Technology.Crime@police.wa.gov.au**. Please include your full name, address and contact details to enable follow-up action.