



## **YCCGBA Social Media Code of Conduct**

Definition : Social media is the collective of online communications and media channels dedicated to community based input, interaction, content- collaboration via a range of technologies eg desktop, laptop, tablet, smartphone and other internet enabling devices.

YCCGBA recognise the developing range of technologies used to interactively share, create and discuss issues and content as extremely positive and encourages individuals and groups to use social media to promote their clubs, their achievements and the sport of crown green bowling while being mindful of their responsibilities.

**YCCGBA (supported by BCGBA) will challenge anyone using social media either intentionally or by association to insult, slander, create a risk to personal safety or abuse any individual organisation or the sport of crown green bowling.**

This includes behaviour which is :

- Discriminatory
- Abusive, obscene or otherwise offensive
- Libellous or defamatory
- In violation of any intellectual property rights (copyright)
- In violation of any law or regulation
- Bringing the Association or the game of bowls into disrepute
- Targeting individuals whether for ‘grooming’ or the increasing instances of cyber bullying

This policy provides guidance for members, clubs and Associations and connected participants in aiding them to understand the acceptable standards in the use of social media in crown green bowling.

### **Reporting Concerns**

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, as is creating and maintaining the high standards of behaviour expected of people within the world of crown green bowling or outside it.

The first point of contact will be the club Safeguarding Officer or Club Chairman. If it relates to a potential safeguarding issue, the matter must be reported to the

Association Safeguarding Officer. Threats of immediate harm should be reported to the police and/or children's services or the Local Authority Designated Officer.

## Online behaviours

- Pause and think about what you are saying and the impact it may have
- Think about your image – ‘what do I want people to think about me and my club?’
- Generational considerations. You will likely come into contact with under 18s. Familiarise yourself with safeguarding regulations in relation to engaging with under 18s. Also, over 50s may find some words/phrases offensive that a millennial may see as innocuous and vice versa.
- Remember, many different audiences will see your posts including club members, potential members, children, member's relatives and friends.
- Be smart about protecting yourself, your privacy and confidential information. What you publish is widely accessible. Do not, for example post when you (or others) are on holiday thus making you vulnerable to burglary.
- Don't write anything on social media that you would not feel comfortable seeing in a newspaper or seeing on TV. Everything you write is treated as a direct quote or ‘would I say this face to face with someone?’
- Don't speak negatively about other clubs, other club members, officials or governing bodies. Never use slurs, personal insults or obscenity. Be professional and respectful.
- Be in the right state of mind when you make a post. Don't post when you're angry, upset or your judgement is impaired in any way. Be very careful what you say, do and post because once it's on social media it can go viral very quickly
- Don't engage in online disputes and don't allow friends or family to argue on your behalf.
  
- We are all whistleblowers. If you see something on line which portrays a club member, club or Association negatively and effectively brings our game into disrepute then you have an obligation to bring this initially to the attention of your club SO. If this is deemed serious enough then he will be expected to pass this on to the SO of the Association and ultimately, if necessary to the YCCGBA SO
- \* If you do have an issue which is potentially contentious, rather than put it on social media, speak to the individual face to face or take it up with your club committee members in the first instance
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## **Remember, think before you post.**

Order of reporting

Your clubs Safeguarding officer

Your District Safeguarding Officer

Your County Safeguarding Officer

This document was composed using items from a variety of sources taken from the internet and therefore in the public domain

Acknowledgements :

Lawley Running Club

Sale Rugby Club

England Athletics

Westcombe Park RFC

Watford Football Club

Masters of Martial Arts Academy

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