

Policy: 664.0
Effective: June 2018
Revised:
Subject: Social Media Policy
Reference: *Harness Racing Act 2009*
HRNSW Board Meeting – 29 May 2018

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The opportunity for avenues of communication through public social media has continued to increase through outlets including, however not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, blogs, forums, SMS and instant messaging.
- 1.2 There have been several instances where social media comments have been made that may adversely affect Harness Racing NSW (HRNSW) and its employees, the harness racing industry, harness racing participants and other individuals, organisations and clubs associated with the harness racing industry.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The purpose of this Policy is to provide direction to all licensed participants, registered owners, harness racing industry employees, club officials, NSW Mini Trots officials and participants and any other person who engages in social media about HRNSW and its employees, the harness racing industry, harness racing participants and other individuals, organisations and clubs associated with the harness racing industry including NSW Mini Trots.
- 2.2 The Policy is not designed to discourage people from utilising social media and does not relate to the personal use of social media where the user makes no reference to HRNSW or harness racing related matters.

3. POLICY

- 3.1 Social media is not to be used for any of the following:
- To publish or make comments or posts that are detrimental to HRNSW or any individual, organisation or club associated with the harness racing industry;
 - To publish or make any comments or posts that could be considered to be abusive, racist or discriminatory in any way, offensive, threatening, bullying, defamatory or disrespectful to any individual, organisation or club associated with the harness racing industry;
 - To publish any information related to the harness racing industry that is relevant to any Steward's Inquiry or investigation, current or otherwise;
 - To publish any information that is related to the harness racing industry that is confidential in nature;
 - To breach any of the Australian Harness Racing Rules (AHRR).

- To assume or use the identity of a licensed person or official within the harness racing industry.

4. BREACH OF HRNSW SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

- 4.1 HRNSW reserves the right to require the immediate removal or modification of any social media content that is in breach of this Policy or the AHRR;
- 4.2 Any breach of this Policy may result in the person responsible having action taken against them pursuant to the AHRR or in the case of a person licensed in the harness racing industry, action may be taken against their licence.

5. AUSTRALIAN HARNESS RACING RULES

AHRR 231

(1) A person shall not:-

- (a) threaten
- (b) harass
- (c) intimidate
- (d) abuse
- (e) assault
- (f) otherwise interfere improperly with anyone employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry or otherwise having a connection with it.

(2) A person shall not misconduct himself in any way.

AHRR 243

A person employed, engaged or participating in the harness racing industry shall not behave in a way which is prejudicial or detrimental to the industry.

AHRR 248

A person shall not say, publish or write or cause to be said, published or written anything malicious, intimidatory or otherwise improper about the Controlling Body, its members and employees or the Stewards or anyone else associated with the harness racing industry.

AHRR 249

A person whether alone or in association with others shall not say, publish or write or cause to be said, published or written anything intended improperly to influence a decision of the Controlling Body, its members or employees, or the Stewards, on any matter.

DEFINITION

Publish includes writing, printing or communicating with a person or persons by any means and includes submitting content online.

For the purpose of this Policy, publish also includes any action taken by a person to 'like', 'share' forward, repost or perpetuate comments made by another person.