

Queensland Christian Soccer Association (QCSA)

Social Networking Policy



For GOD Through Sport

Est. 1969

The Queensland Christian Soccer Association Inc. (QCSA) understands that some member clubs and their families, friends, players and parents may participate in social networking sites (e.g Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn), chat rooms and create and maintain personal websites, including blogs. QCSA respects the rights of all persons associated within our membership with regards to online social networking and personal Internet use, however, your online presence can affect QCSA when your words, images, posts, and comments can be attributed to our Association. As a parent/carer, player, team member, volunteer or club associate, everyone should be mindful of using electronic media, even on your own personal time, responsibly and respectfully to others.

Online comments and postings may impact the QCSA, Member Clubs and/or affiliated Associations (i.e., QCSRA, SCCSA). QCSA has adopted the following guidelines that all Member Clubs and their members, volunteers, parents, players and other associated parties must observe when participating in social networking sites and/or engaging in other forms of Internet use that could be linked to the Association, member clubs or affiliates.

It shall be considered a breach of acceptable policy for any person to post on any public or private website or other forum, including but not limited to discussion lists, newsgroups, list serves, blogs, information sharing sites, social media sites, social or business networking sites such as LinkedIn, Facebook, or MySpace, chat rooms, telephone based group communications such as Twitter, or any other electronic or print communication format, any of the following:

- 1) Anything that may harm the goodwill or reputation of the QCSA or any disparaging information about the QCSA;
- 2) Any disparaging, discriminatory or harassing information concerning any Member Club, player, parent, volunteer, family member or any other person associated with QCSA including affiliates. The Queensland Christian Soccer Association Inc.'s policies prohibiting harassment apply online as well as offline;
- 3) Any confidential information, trade secrets, or intellectual property of QCSA obtained during your time with our association. This includes information relating to finances, research, development, marketing, member clubs, operational methods, plans and policies;
- 4) Any private information relating to a member club or any player, parent, volunteer, family member or other person associated with QCSA and affiliates;
- 5) Denigrates or criticises another Member, whether in relation to incidents that have occurred in a Match/Fixture or otherwise;
- 6) Denigrates or criticises a Participant by inappropriately commenting on any aspect of his or her performance, abilities or characteristics;
- 7) Refers to the likely outcome of a matter being investigated by QCSA or a matter or hearing before a Body;
- 8) Criticises the outcome of a QCSA investigation;
- 9) Criticises the decision of a Body;
- 10) Criticises a Body or any of its members; or
- 11) Criticises any evidence, submission or other comment made by any person at or in relation to a matter or hearing before a Body.

This policy applies regardless of where or when things are posted and includes any communicative information seen online. QCSA reserves the right to monitor and access any information or data that is created or stored by mediums used by the QCSA as agreed to by the management from time to time. All technology, equipment or electronic systems, including without limitation, e-mails, internet usage, hard drives and other stored, transmitted or received information is included in this policy.

No person should have any expectation of privacy in any information or data:

- (i) placed on any QCSA computer or computer-related system or
- (ii) viewed, created, sent, received or stored on any QCSA computer or computer-related system, including, without limitation, electronic communications, emails or internet usage.

Member Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all their members, volunteers, parents, players and other associated parties are aware of the QCSA Social Media Policy and in its basic form, ensure that it is followed where possible.

All postings believed to be detrimental to the Association will be asked to be removed within 48 hours of notification. Breaches of this policy will be dealt with by the QCSA Management Committee in all cases through the normal discipline process of the Association.

QCSA may, in its absolute discretion, deal with such matters pursuant to Section 11 (Off-Field Misconduct and/or Disrepute) in the QCSA Disciplinary Regulations Manual.

Where there is evidence that a Member has made a public or media comment (including via social media) in breach these Regulations, that Member will be presumed to have made the comment and the onus will be on the Member to satisfy QCSA or the Tribunal, as the case may be, that the Member did not do so. For example, if the offending comment is made on the Member's social media account, that Member will be presumed to have posted that comment and the onus will be on that Member to satisfy QCSA or the Tribunal that the Member did not do so.

Members are responsible for their own social media and email accounts and must ensure they keep their usernames and passwords by which they access their own social media and email accounts confidential and secure at all times. Members must ensure computers and mobile devices are not left unattended and/or without password protection.

If you wish to make a complaint about a breach of policy within the control of the QCSA, this may be done via written correspondence (letter or email) through your Club Secretary or management personnel addressed to the Secretary of the QCSA (secretary@qcsa.org.au).