

Social Media sites such as Facebook, MySpace, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, YouTube, as well as Forums and Blogs are exciting new avenues expressing creativity, and sharing interests and knowledge. Participation in these online communities is therefore supported. However, over a number of years there have been repeated incidents where online discussions and posting of online content have caused distress to individuals or groups of members and has detracted from the community's overall enjoyment of cycling.

The Cycling ACT social media policy is guided by the key principles of the Cycling Australia (CA) Code of Conduct which are:

- CA wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property. Respect is defined as consideration for another's physical and emotional well being and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to either.
- CA wishes to operate in an environment that is free from harassment. Harassment is defined as any action directed at an individual or group that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment. (Refer to Australian Sports Commission Guidelines for Harassment-Free Sport).
- CA wishes to operate in a non-discriminatory environment. Respect the right, dignity and worth of every human being - within the context of the activity; treat everyone equally regardless of gender, ethnic origin or religion.
- Persons to whom this Code applies acknowledge and agree to comply with the disciplinary and grievance procedures promulgated by CA. If any disciplinary action is taken, persons directly affected shall be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings and the right to appeal against any decision against them.

Cycling ACT promotes responsible use of social media and requires its members, when posting about the Federation and its members or Federation or club endorsed, promoted or conducted events or activities, to observe the following guidelines for responsible social media use.

1. Cycling ACT requires members to take responsibility for their own words and for the comments allowed on their sites or forums. Cycling ACT members will not post unacceptable content, and will delete comments that contain it. Unacceptable content is defined as anything included or linked to that:
 - a. is being used to abuse, harass, stalk or threaten others
 - b. is libelous, knowingly false, or misrepresents another person,
 - c. infringes upon a copyright or trademark
 - d. violates an obligation of confidentiality
 - e. violates the privacy of others
2. Cycling ACT members don't post anything online that they wouldn't say in person.
3. Cycling ACT members connect privately before they respond publicly. When members encounter conflicts and misrepresentation in social networking sites, they make every effort to talk privately and directly to the person(s) involved—or find an intermediary who can do so—before publishing any posts or comments about the issue.
4. Cycling ACT strongly discourages personal attacks. When someone who is publishing comments that are offensive, members will tell them so (privately, if possible—see 3 above).
5. Anonymous comments are discouraged. All content posters should be required to supply a valid email address before they can post, authorized posters may identify themselves with an alias, rather than their real name.
6. Cycling ACT prefers members not to respond to nasty comments about them, their group, event or site. If posts veer into abuse or libel, Cycling ACT supports the use of disciplinary and grievance procedures to resolve issues.

Cycling ACT encourages all members to “think before posting”. Members should recognize that even if posting to a private section of a social networking site comments can appear in public areas through a variety of means and can easily be found. Members should avoid posting something they will regret now or later.