

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR VRPU MEMBERS & PARTICIPANTS IN PIGEON RACING IN VICTORIA.**

### **Purpose**

Communication via online social media outlets such as Facebook, twitter, blogs and forums etc. is an ever increasing way for Society to communicate by creating and sharing content of a common interest. This policy provides some guidelines and expectations when using social media either as part of their job, or for personal use where reference is made to the Victorian Racing Pigeon Union Inc. (VRPU), the racing pigeon fraternity, its participants and any other racing pigeon related individuals, officials, Clubs or Organisations.

This policy aims to protect the interests of the pigeon racing fraternity, members, and officials of the VRPU and the racing pigeon sport/fraternity of Australia. This policy is not designed to discourage people from accessing social media but rather to ensure that they are clear of their respective rights and responsibilities. This policy does not apply where members engage in the personal use of social media where no reference to the VRPU or anything related to the pigeon racing sport/fraternity is made.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all participants, officials and members of the VRPU.

What is Social Media?

Social media avenues include, however are not limited to:

- Social network websites such as Facebook, Bebo, Friendster
- Photo and Video sharing websites such as Flickr, YouTube, Snapchat
- Blogging applications such as Twitter
- Discussion boards, blogs and chat forums
- Online newspapers allowing for comments to be made
- Instant or SMS type messaging
- Other websites that allow persons to use publishing tools

### **Use of Social Media**

Social Media should not be used for any of the following:

- To publish or make comments that is detrimental to the VRPU or any of its members;
- To direct abuse or inappropriate comments about other individuals or Clubs that participate in the VRPU or Racing Pigeons in Australia;
- To breach any of the rules, constitution or code of practice as members of the VRPU;
- To assume or use the identity of another member or official;
- To publish any information that is related to the VRPU that is confidential in nature or is part of any ongoing inquiry or investigation;

- To make any comment or post that is or could be considered to be offensive, abusive, racist, threatening, discriminatory, bullying, defamatory or disrespectful to another person or body in the VRPU or racing pigeon fraternity of Australia.

### **Constitution of the VRPU**

#### VRPU Constitution Rule 11

11. Any club or member of a club affiliated with the VPU who, in the opinion of the Committee, is guilty of misconduct or of breaking the VPU Rules, may be fined \$50.00, or be liable to suspension or expulsion.

### **Breach of Policy**

Non-compliance of this policy may result in that person being called before the VRPU Committee.

The VRPU Committee reserves the right to require the immediate removal or modification of medial contents that result in a breach of this Policy.

Any queries in relation to this policy please contact VRPU Committee or the Secretary of the VRPU.

Policy developed June 2017 and ratified by VRPU Committee on