



BOWLS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

POLICY STATEMENT

COMMUNICATION AND USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY POLICY

Approval Date	15th August 2011
Reviewed:	6th August 2014 22nd December 2023

DEFINITION

This policy applies to all Bowls WA Executive, Officials, Clubs, Leagues and Affiliated Members. In terms of the use of Technology in a playing sense, please read *General Conditions of Play (Section 11 and 13)*.

Bowls WA Commitment

Using the internet and electronic communication is essential for communicating effectively with affiliated members and clubs. Bowls WA is committed to communication being appropriate and related to the business of the sport.

What Bowls WA will ensure

When using technology Bowls WA will ensure that members' privacy is protected, clear boundaries are maintained and bullying and harassment does not occur.

Website

- Information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, constitution, rules and by-laws will be placed on our website,
- No offensive content or photos will be uploaded to our website, especially about social activities and events,
- YouTube video postings will feature positive team performances,
- Permission will be sought from parents to upload photos of their children, and care will be taken not to provide information that identifies them,
- A web master will be appointed to provide accountability and control over what goes onto our website and social media pages.

SMS and emails

- Committee members, staff, coaches and other officials may use SMS and email to communicate Bowls WA business, however;
 - text communication should be short and about BWA matters,
 - email communication will be used when more information is required,
 - communication about children is through their parents and/or legal guardian.

Facebook (if used)

- Postings and uploading of videos will feature positive news and events,
- Personal information about members will not be disclosed,
- No statements will be made that are misleading, false or likely to injure the reputation of another person,
- No statement will be made that may bring BWA or the game into disrepute,

- BWA staff or officials will not engage in negative or destructive discussions or postings,
- Abusive, harassing, discriminatory or offensive statements will not be posted,
- Destructive or negative users will be deleted and blocked from engaging on the site.

What we ask clubs to do

All clubs are expected to use the internet and electronic communication appropriately. It is recognised that emails are a written record of your thoughts on a matter and can be used against authors at a later date.

Communication by clubs,

- Should be restricted to club matters,
- Must not offend, intimidate, humiliate or bully any member,
- Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of members or others,
- Should seek to protect the privacy of members,
- Must not bring the club into disrepute.

Coaches and others working with children and young people will direct electronic communication through parents.

Non-Compliance

Any member found to have sent inappropriate electronic communication, uploaded inappropriate website content or engaged in blogs or discussions that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate members, may face disciplinary action as outlined in the Bowls Australia and/or BWA Member Protection or other welfare policy covered by the National Integrity Framework..

Cyber bullying under certain circumstances is a criminal offence that can be reported by victims to the police. The club can also initiate separate action where there has been a breach of the Bowls WA or Bowls Australia club member protection policy or other welfare policy covered by the National Integrity Framework to provide for the protection, safety and welfare of members.

Members publishing false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (eg Facebook or websites or any other form of social media) may be liable for defamation.