

## **Dorset and Wiltshire Referees Society Social Media Policy**

Social media is an area of public comment, and our Society is liable for any statement it makes in this sphere as if the same statement was being made in the media.

The reputation of rugby, the Dorset and Wiltshire Referees Society (hereafter referred to as the Society) and our members is of paramount importance and appropriate use of social media underpins that. The Society aims to use social media to benefit rugby refereeing. This guidance is offered to help protect the Society and our members, together with the interests of players, coaches, administrators, referees, suppliers, partners and other stakeholders.

This policy does not specifically address every issue that may come up in the social media space, but is intended to give a framework for acceptable behaviour that will protect the Society as well as the individuals involved.

### **General**

- These Guidelines form part of the Society Code of Conduct.
- Failure to comply with these Guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against you.
- If in doubt about any of these Guidelines, please contact the society secretary.
- For the purposes of this policy, “social media” includes the following (although this is a non-exhaustive list):
  - (a) Social and professional networking profiles, fan pages or networks (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn).
  - (b) Blogging or micro-blogging (e.g. Twitter)
  - (c) Contributing comments, reviews and content to forums, social networks, websites or blogs

### **Use of Official Society Social Media**

If you have an officially sanctioned presence or contribute to an official Society account, you must not use such accounts for personal communication(s).

Do not post or share anything which breaches Copyright or that could be construed as advertising or promoting a commercial company.

You should not post (or re-post) anything which contradicts an official Society position or be politically partial, bring the Society into disrepute, disclose confidential or commercially sensitive information, take part in illegal or inappropriate behaviour.

All uses of images of minors, including young referees must be in strict accordance with the Society Safeguarding Policy and Toolkit.

### **Use of Personal Social Media**

If you do use social media platforms in a non-work capacity, and identify yourself as a Society member, please ensure that you make clear that the views expressed on such platform(s) are your own; and that such use is appropriate, and does not disclose the Society’s confidential or sensitive information, nor bring the Society name into disrepute.