



## **THE BRITISH DRIVING SOCIETY LTD, SOCIAL, MEDIA AND INTERNET POLICY**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

The British Driving Society Ltd (BDS) is fully aware of the importance of social media and internet sites for communication and sharing information. Unfortunately, the ease of use of such sites can all-too-easily result in the deliberate or thoughtless posting of adverse comments which cause upset, disruption or even result in legal action. Whilst the BDS have no wish to prevent freedom of speech, it is necessary to protect our members, Officials, Volunteers, and the Society itself from detrimental postings. The following BDS Social Media Policy is designed to create a social media environment where BDS Members write to and about one another and the Society in a spirit of common courtesy and respect.

BDS Council have therefore created the following BDS Social Media Policy, which applies to all BDS members and Officials past and present, including: BDS Council, BDS Committees; Officials; Judges; Assessors; Training Providers; Branch Chairmen and their Committees; Area Commissioners their Committees and helpers; Volunteers; and permanent and temporary BDS Staff.

### **2 USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

**2.1** The BDS want to promote a friendly, informative, and enjoyable online experience for all members of the Facebook Community and website forum. Therefore, content and comments not in this spirit are not allowed and will be removed. At all times members must be respectful of our Social Media Policy and of other BDS Members, Competitors and Officers of the BDS.

**2.2** The BDS will always manage all online platforms and social networking sites responsibly and with integrity and sensitivity at all times.

**2.3** The BDS will not tolerate the publication on any social media or internet site of any of the following types of adverse material or comments: Illegal; untrue; threatening; discriminatory; offensive; inappropriate, misleading; derogatory; malicious; anything likely to be interpreted as sarcastic, spiteful or causing personal distress; anything which represents a breach of BDS confidentiality; anything which could damage the name or reputation of any of the following: BDS Members; including former Members, their horses, ponies or turnouts; BDS Officials; Judges; Assessors; Branch Chairmen; Area Commissioners; Volunteers; Training Providers; or The British Driving Society Ltd.

**2.4** You must ensure that any comments or material you transmit or post to any social media or internet site follows the criteria set out in Paragraph 2.3 and is also clearly stated to be your personal view and is not described as, or could be mistaken for, the view of the British Driving Society, or BDS Council, or Officials.



**This should not be interpreted as preventing Branch Chairman, Area Commissioners, Organisers, and other BDS Officials from posting information about forthcoming events, nor from reporting of BDS events and activities, nor prevent Members wishing anyone success, nor prevent Members congratulation anyone on an achievement.**

**2.5** The Society will not enter into debate in response to intentionally negative comments, baited questions, unfounded or unproven accusations, speculation or any other hearsay directed at individuals or organisations.

**2.6** You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the BDS, its members, or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the BDS.

**2.7** Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of The British Driving Society Articles of Association and Rules, which could lead to disciplinary sanctions, and could lead to the offended party bringing civil proceedings against you, or result in criminal proceedings against you by the Police or other enforcement agencies

**2.8** The BDS may require you to remove postings, comments or any other Submissions made using social media that are deemed to be in breach of this policy. Failure to comply with such a request may in itself result in disciplinary action.

**2.9** If a complaint is active, any public discussion or comment by the complainant pertaining to the subject including on social media or other digital forum, will automatically result in the case being closed.