



Social Media Policy

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Social Media Policy

1. Purpose

Pétanque England (PE) recognises that social media and online communication platforms are valuable tools for promoting the sport, sharing information, celebrating achievements, and engaging with members and the wider community.

This policy aims to encourage the responsible use of social media while protecting the welfare of participants, maintaining respectful communication, and safeguarding the reputation of Pétanque England and the sport of pétanque.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the PE Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy, Complaints Policy and Disciplinary Policy.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all individuals involved in Pétanque England, including:

- Members
- Volunteers
- Officials
- Umpires
- Coaches
- Directors
- Committee members
- Individuals acting on behalf of Pétanque England

The policy applies to the use of social media platforms, online forums, messaging applications, websites, blogs and other digital communication channels.

It applies both to official PE social media activity and to personal accounts where an individual references, discusses or represents Pétanque England, its members, activities or events.

The standards set out in this policy apply equally to private and group messaging platforms where communications relate to Pétanque England, its members, activities or events

3. Principles

Individuals using social media should:

- Communicate respectfully and courteously.
- Consider the impact of their comments on others.
- Be honest and accurate in the information they share.
- Respect privacy and confidentiality.
- Recognise that online comments may be shared, copied or remain accessible indefinitely.
- Behave in a manner that reflects positively on themselves, Pétanque England and the sport of pétanque.
- Avoid conduct that may bring Pétanque England or the sport of pétanque into disrepute.

Members are encouraged to consider whether they would be comfortable making the same comment in person at a competition, meeting or official event before posting it online.

Online conduct should reflect the same standards expected at competitions, meetings, training sessions and other pétanque-related activities.

4. Appropriate Use of Social Media

Pétanque England encourages the positive use of social media to:

- Promote the sport of pétanque.
- Share news, results and achievements.
- Encourage participation.
- Celebrate volunteers and members.
- Support clubs, regions and affiliated organisations.
- Exchange ideas and information in a constructive manner.

Healthy discussion and respectful disagreement are recognised as a normal part of sporting organisations. Members should express differing views in a respectful and constructive manner.

5. Unacceptable Conduct

The following behaviours are unacceptable and may result in action under the PE Complaints Policy, Disciplinary Policy or Safeguarding Policy:

- Harassment, bullying or intimidation.
- Abusive, offensive or threatening language.
- Discriminatory comments or conduct.
- Personal attacks directed at members, volunteers, officials or other individuals.
- Deliberately false, misleading or malicious statements.
- Publication of confidential or private information without permission.
- Posting content that may bring Pétanque England or the sport of pétanque into disrepute.
- Encouraging or participating in online behaviour that creates a hostile, intimidating or unsafe environment

This list is not exhaustive.

6. Safeguarding and Welfare

The safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk must always take priority.

Individuals should:

- Respect the privacy of children and adults at risk.
- Ensure photographs and media are shared in accordance with PE safeguarding requirements.
- Avoid sharing personal information without appropriate consent.
- Never discuss safeguarding concerns or allegations on social media.

Any safeguarding concern should be reported through the appropriate safeguarding procedures and not through public online discussion.

7. Confidentiality and Privacy

Members should respect confidential information obtained through their involvement with Pétanque England.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Complaints and disciplinary matters.
- Safeguarding concerns.
- Personal information relating to members.
- Information discussed in confidence by committees, panels or officials.

The publication or sharing of confidential information may result in disciplinary action.

8. Resolving Concerns

Members are encouraged to address concerns through the appropriate Pétanque England policies and procedures rather than through social media.

Members should seek to resolve disagreements respectfully and directly where appropriate. Social media should not be used as a substitute for established PE procedures or as a means of pursuing personal disputes.

Public online disputes rarely assist the resolution of issues and may cause unnecessary distress to those involved.

Where concerns exist, members should utilise the appropriate reporting, complaints, disciplinary or safeguarding procedures.

9. Official Pétanque England Accounts

Only individuals authorised by Pétanque England may create, manage or post content on behalf of Pétanque England through official accounts, websites or communication channels.

Official PE social media accounts should be used to provide information, promote the sport and engage positively with members and the public. They should not be used to conduct disputes, criticise individuals or comment on ongoing complaints, disciplinary or safeguarding matters.

Individuals must not imply that personal opinions represent the official position of Pétanque England unless specifically authorised to do so.

10. Breaches of this Policy

Alleged breaches of this policy may be considered under one or more of the following:

- PE Code of Conduct
- PE Complaints Policy
- PE Disciplinary Policy
- PE Safeguarding Policy

Appropriate [action will be determined according to the circumstances of each case](#).

11. Related Documents

This policy should be read alongside:

- Pétanque England Code of Conduct
- Pétanque England Complaints Policy
- Pétanque England Disciplinary Policy
- Pétanque [England Safeguarding Policy](#)

12. Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every two years or sooner where necessary to ensure it remains appropriate, effective and consistent with Pétanque England's governance framework.

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