

AUSTRALIAN CLAY TARGET ASSOCIATION INC. (“ACTA”)

Social Media / Cyber Bullying

This Part sets out the purpose of this By-Law, who it applies to, when it commences, what words mean and who has responsibilities under the By-Law.

6. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS BY-LAW?

1. The purpose of this By-Law is to provide guidelines for the protection of the health, safety and well-being of all Australian Clay Target Association members and those who participate in the activities of the Australian Clay Target Association, Member Associations and Affiliated Clubs.

1.1 Cyber Bullying/Safety

Bullying and harassment in all forms is regarded by the Australian Clay Target Association as unacceptable. Given the emergence of new telephone and internet social networks, the opportunity for unwanted and improper comments and statements has dramatically increased. Messages or statements made in these ways using these means of communication are largely instantaneous, and can easily be abused. Others may also manipulate a person by encouraging a statement to be made on twitter or facebook, for example, when the writer may be upset or vulnerable. Bullying has the potential to cause great anxiety and distress to the person who has been the target of any comments or statements. ***In some cases, bullying is regarded as a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment, amongst other things.*** Frustration at a referee, team-mate, coach, or sporting body should never be communicated on social network channels, but rather by way of reasoned and logical verbal and written statements and where appropriate, complaints, to the relevant member protection officer at club, Zone, State or National Level.

1.2 Social Networking Websites Policy

Australian Clay Target Association acknowledges the emergence of new technology and communication mediums (new media), and wishes to enable such new media to be used to benefit the sport and its participants, and to applaud achievements. This can occur due to the immediate nature of communication to a wide audience using channels such as but not limited to face book, twitter, and SMS. However, participants within the sport need to be very mindful of a few key matters that could lead to inappropriate use of new media, at times unintended, and at other times without a proper understanding that once comments are made or published, they are in the public forum for a long time, and hard to take back (retract).

Cautions the Australian Clay Target Association recommends:

- Do not include personal information of yourself or others in social media channels;
- ***Do not use offensive, provocative or hateful language;***
- Use your best judgment – do not publish something that makes you the slightest bit uncomfortable, and never write/publish if you are feeling emotional or upset (or are intoxicated);
- Always ask for a person’s permission before posting their picture on a social networking forum;
- Never comment on rumours, do not deny or affirm them or speculate about them; and
- Do not use the Australian Clay Target Association Registered Logo without written permission
- Always use social network forums to add value and promote the sport in a positive way.

The penalty for such proven breach is a one year suspension from the Australian Clay Target Association