



Australian Professional Skaters' Association Incorporated

COMMUNICATION 001

2013 – 2 - 7

To: All Affiliated Member Coaches

Re: APSA Inc. Member Protection Policy (MPP)

Please be advised that the APSA Inc. MPP has been updated in accordance with the Australian Sports Commission's recommendation and is displayed on the APSA website.

Coaches are reminded that we sign our agreement annually to abide by the policies and codes of conduct contained within the MPP.

New policies are included as follows:

Part A 6.7 Alcohol Policy (Page 9 MPP)

APSA Inc. recommends that State Member Associations and their members adhere to strict guidelines regarding the responsible consumption of alcohol. Generally, alcohol should not be available nor be consumed at a sporting event at which children under 18 are participants in the sport. Responsible service and consumption of alcohol should apply to any alcohol to be consumed after the competition has concluded, including light alcohol and soft drinks always being available; wherever possible, food being available to be consumed when alcohol is available; transport policies, and Committee Members being in attendance to ensure appropriate practices are followed. Guidance can be obtained from the "Alcohol Management Policy" available at <http://www.playbytherules.net.au/resources/club-toolkit>

Part A 6.8 Smoking Policy (Page 9 MPP)

The following policies should be applied to sporting and social events:

- No smoking shall occur at or near any sporting event or competition involving persons under the age of 18. This policy shall apply to coaches, athletes, trainers, officials and volunteers;
- Social functions shall be smoke free, with smoking permitted at designated outdoor smoking areas;
- Coaches, officials, trainers, volunteers and athletes will refrain from smoking and remain smoke free while involved in an official capacity for any of the APSA Inc. or State member associations during coaching, competitions, events, camps or travelling.

Part A 6.9 Cyber Bullying / Safety Policy (Page 9 MPP)

Bullying and harassment in all forms is regarded by APSA Inc. as unacceptable in this sport. 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



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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 controlling club, league or peak sporting body.

Part A 6.10 Social Networking Websites Policy (Page 10 MPP)

APSA Inc. 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 facebook, 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 public for a long time, and hard to take back (retract). Cautions APSA Inc. 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 rumours; and
- Always use social network forums to add value and promote the sport in a positive way.

Part C Attachment C2 Member Protection Declaration (MPD)

The MPIO Christine Wallace has asked coaches to note that an MPD must be signed and sent to APSA for filing (held for 2 years) when:

People who volunteer to assist APSA Inc affiliated member coaches with unsupervised contact of people under the age of 18 years during coaching, competitions, events, camps or travelling.

EG: If an APSA Inc. affiliated coach is holding, a class / camp, (as opposed to a club / state / ISA organised class) or travelling with students to a competition etc. and leaves the skaters with a parent or other volunteer, they must have the parent / volunteer sign an MPD.

7th Feb 2013
Christine Wallace APSA MPIO
Adele Leghorn APSA President