

Didcot Runners Social Media Guidance

Didcot Runners reserves the right to add to or amend the terms of this policy at any time without notice; therefore, the latest version of this document should always be reviewed for the most up to date terms, as its rules will supersede any previous versions.

If any club members have concerns regarding conduct on Didcot Runners Social Media channels or by club members as outlined in this document they should contact the Club Welfare Officers Alan Murphy (wellbeingmale@didcotrunners.org.uk) and Meg Stanton-Humphreys (wellbeingfemale@didcotrunners.org.uk).

Purpose of the Guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to provide guidelines on the proper use of social media communications. 'Social media' in the context of these guidelines refers to a number of online platforms:

- Social networks e.g. Facebook;
- Blogs (written, video, podcasts);
- Micro-blogging websites e.g. Twitter;
- Forums/message boards;
- Content-sharing (photos, videos, audio) e.g. Instagram;
- Any other website where user comments are an available feature

Scope

This guidance applies to all club members including athletes, coaches, officials, and volunteers.

Online Conduct and Codes of Conduct

Individuals involved in the sport in a number of roles are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the relevant codes of conducts. Roles that have a specific code of conduct include:

- Athletes
- Coaches
- Team managers
- Officials

The behaviours covered in these codes of conducts include online behaviour, such as when using social media.

These codes of conduct can be viewed at:

www.britishathletics.org.uk/governance/welfare-and-safeguarding/guidance-documents-and-policy.

Personal Conduct

Didcot Runners respects all our members' right to a private life. However, the Club must also ensure that confidentiality and its reputation are protected at all times.

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Those who hold positions of responsibility in the club (for example, committee members and coaches) should not make comments on controversial issues with which they have a connection in their role at the club as it may be taken as a statement indicating the position of Didcot Runners.

Any communications that club members post to Didcot Runners social media groups (for example, the Didcot Runners Running Club Facebook group) must not:

- bring the club into disrepute, for example, by:
 - making defamatory comments about individuals or other organisations or groups;
- breach confidentiality, for example by:
 - giving away information about an individual (such as a fellow volunteer or athlete) or organisation
 - revealing information held by the club where there would be reasonable expectation of confidentiality;
- breach copyright, for example by:
 - using someone else's images or written content without permission; or failing to give acknowledgement where permission has been given to reproduce something;
- do anything that could be considered discriminatory against, or bullying or harassment of, any individual, for example by:
 - making offensive or derogatory comments relating to sex, gender reassignment, race (including nationality), disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief or age;
 - using social media to bully another individual; or
 - posting images that are discriminatory or offensive.

No comment should ever be made about an individual or subject that:

- exposes someone to hatred, ridicule or contempt;
- causes them to be shunned or avoided;
- disparages them in their office, profession or trade.

Social media can be used in a positive way, for example, to make people aware of events, activities or work that you are involved in within the sport and to make positive statements about the successes and activities of athletes, coaches, clubs, volunteers and officials.

Social Media may be used to raise awareness of work done by organisations you are involved in or to answer queries people make have about the availability of support, information or services.

Didcot Runners recognises that Social Media can be a useful tool for staff, coaches, athletes and officials to share information.

Please also see the Guidelines given by England Athletics at www.EnglandAthletics.org/socialmedia, which includes advice and information that should be considered for your own security, wellbeing and peace of mind when using Social Media.

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Information on club activities including details associated with competitions, training and social events will be communicated on the recognised club online presence including our website (<http://didcotrunners.org.uk>) and Social Media (Didcot Runners Running Club Facebook group).

Security and Identify Theft

People should be aware that social networking websites are a public forum, particularly if you are part of a “network”. You should not assume that your entries on any website will remain private. Most online communities have their own rules and guidelines, which you should always follow.

Reporting Concerns & Disciplinary Action

Serious breaches of this guidance, for example incidents of bullying of other club members, inappropriate usage or social media activity causing serious damage to the club, may lead to club membership being terminated.

Note also codes of conduct for roles including coaches, athletes, officials, parents and team managers are published by UKA. Breach of these codes of conducts, including in the use of social media, may also result in disciplinary proceedings by UKA and/or England Athletics.

For matters relating to bullying and club member conduct, in line with procedures should be reported to the Lead Welfare Officer for England Athletics:
Lead Welfare Officer – Jane Fylan jfylan@uka.org.uk 07803 671 975.

If you believe that you have witnessed possible criminal activity please report this activity to the police.

Further Guidance and information

www.englandathletics.org/socialmedia