

# Australian Karting Association

## CYBERSAFETY POLICY

### RATIONALE

The Australian Karting Association (AKA) has an obligation to maintain a safe physical and emotional environment for Association officials, Stewards, registered drivers, club members, volunteers, spectators and sponsors. This responsibility is not solely confined to the race track, and the AKA has seen the emergence of a number of Cybersafety issues related to the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and the various applications therein. The Internet and ICT devices/equipment bring great benefits to all users and to the effective operation of the AKA, and its member clubs.

The AKA places a high priority on the acceptable use of ICT devices/equipment which will benefit members however; it recognises that the presence in the sporting arena of these technologies can also facilitate anti-social, inappropriate, abusive, threatening and even illegal behaviour and activities. The AKA aims therefore, to maximise the benefits of these technologies, while at the same time to minimise the dangers and manage the risks.

### UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

The policy is written in light of the Statement of Purpose of the Australian Karting Association Incorporated.

- To promote and protect the sport of kart racing;
- To promote excellence and just and honourable practices in the sport and to suppress malpractices;
- To promote and organise kart meetings and other functions for members;
- To do all such acts which, in the opinion of the Association are for the general benefit of members or of karting.

## POLICY

*The AKA and its member associations will develop and maintain rigorous and effective Cybersafety practices which aim to maximise the benefits of the Internet and ICT and allow for the effective operation of the AKA and member associations and clubs, whilst minimising and managing any risks.*

These Cybersafety practices will aim to not only maintain a cybersafe karting environment but also to address the needs of the Associations officials, club members and drivers to receive education about the safe and responsible use of present and developing information and communication technologies.

Associated issues the AKA will address include the need for relevant education about Cybersafety for the AKA and its member associations & clubs, the need for ongoing funding for Cybersafety practices through inclusion in the annual budget, implications for the design and delivery of the cybersafety program, the, professional development and training, disciplinary responses to breaches of the cybersafety policy and the availability of appropriate pastoral support.

The AKA takes seriously its responsibility in providing robust policy, guidelines and education for its members in relation to what is deemed acceptable and appropriate online behaviours. The AKA and/or club name, motto, crest, and/or logo must not be used in any way which would result in a negative impact for the AKA or its members. Members of the AKA, member Associations and Clubs have a responsibility to ensure that all online communications are in keeping with the Associations expectations in relation to appropriate and respectful interactions with Stewards, Clerks of Course, Scrutineers, Track Marshalls and other designated officials, Drivers, parents, spectators and sponsors. Association members, including all Drivers will not post or send inappropriate comments about individual Drivers or Association/Club members which if said in person during the conduct of a race meeting would result in disciplinary action being taken, or where such posting would be in breach of General Offences 5.01 (a) (b) (d) (e)

*“Cyberbullying is a way of delivering covert psychological bullying. It uses information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated and hostile behaviour, by an individual or group that is intended to harm others.”  
(Belsey 2007)*

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating or threatening another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, phone messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including social network sites eg facebook or blogs) and is irrespective of whether the page could be viewed by the wider public or not. It can also include the sending, receiving and/or possession of naked or sexually explicit images of a

person. Club members must also be aware that postings, comments and/or messages from their individual accounts and mobile phones, whether done by themselves or another person will remain the responsibility of the account owner.

All members of the AKA and individual clubs must be aware that in certain circumstances where a crime has been committed, they may also be subjected to a criminal investigation by Police over which the relevant association and/or club will have no control. This particularly applies to 'sexting' where the image is of a person under the age of 18 years whereby Police will be informed immediately a club becomes aware of the situation.

Members of the AKA and its affiliate associations and clubs who feel that they have been the victims of such misuses of technology should save and store the offending material on their computer, mobile phone or other device. They should then print a copy of the material and immediately report the incident in writing to the nominated AKA representative. They should also report the abuse to the 'site' (ie facebook) or the relevant telecommunications provider in the case of telephone abuse.

## PROCEDURE

All reports of cyberbullying and other online or mobile telephone harassment will be investigated fully and may result in a notification to Police where the AKA, or club is legally obliged to do so. A notification to Police by either the AKA or individual will not abrogate the AKA of its responsibility to fully investigate a complaint and such investigation will be conducted alongside any Police investigation.

If a member of the AKA or State Affiliate Body wishes to make a complaint about an online issue, the procedure will follow the established complaint procedure. A complaint made during the conduct of a race and directly linked to that race meeting will be made in writing to the Clerk of Course or Chief Steward and may either be the subject of a stewards hearing or be referred to the relevant Disciplinary Tribunal.

Complaints made outside of a race meeting will be made in writing to the relevant State Secretary. The time limit for receiving a report of an online abuse issue shall be at the discretion of the State Secretary but ideally the complaint should be lodged no more than 2 (two) working days after becoming aware of the incident. [See 7.14 (x)] If there is sufficient evidence, the complaint will proceed to the AKA's Disciplinary Tribunal.

## PENALTIES

Any proven charges will automatically lead to a minimum of a 1 month licence suspension for registered drivers. In deciding the final penalty, consideration will be given to the seriousness of the act, the impact on the victim, the impact on the AKA, State Association and/or club and the prior good history or otherwise of the person.

Drivers charged with these types of offences for a second or subsequent time and where a suspension has been previously imposed will face, minimally, both a fine of \$1000.00 and a suspension of six (6) months.

Any driver presented before the tribunal for the first or subsequent time on a cyberbullying or online abuse offence must be aware that the penalties available to the tribunal members will cover the complete range including deregistration.

In the case of a *non licence holder* (ie parent, sibling, club member, friend etc) being proved to have engaged in online harassment or bullying, the licenced driver employing, engaging or otherwise directly associated with the person at the time of the conduct shall be deemed to be vicariously liable for the conduct of the person and will be charged and subsequently penalised as determined by either the Stewards of the Meeting or a Disciplinary Tribunal.

To lodge an appeal refer Chapter 8 of the AKA Karting Manual

**Australian Karting Association Cyber Safety Policy prepared by Susan McLean and ratified February 2012.**

[www.cybersaftsolutions.com.au](http://www.cybersaftsolutions.com.au)

### ***Important terms used in this document:***

- (a) The abbreviation 'ICT' in this document refers to the term 'Information, Communication and Technologies.*
- (b) 'Cybersafety' refers to the safe and responsible use of the Internet and ICT equipment/devices, including mobile phones*
- (c) The term 'ICT equipment/devices' used in this document, includes but is not limited to, computers (such as desktops, laptops, PDAs), storage devices (such as USB and flash memory devices, CDs, DVDs, floppy disks, iPods, MP3 players), cameras (such as video, digital, webcams), all types of mobile phones, video and audio players/receivers (such as portable CD and DVD players), Gaming Consoles, and any other, similar, technologies as they come into use.*