

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY OF CONDUCT

Purpose – Motorsport Ireland (MI) have created this policy document to ensure that any individual involved in any form of motorsport in Ireland, which is governed by MI, understand and agree to their responsibilities when using social media and in particular when posting content to any form of social media or to any Internet Websites, blogs, forums or message boards.

All competitors and officials, and in the case of minors, their Parent or Guardian, by signing an event entry form or an officials sign on sheet for a Motorsport Ireland event, hereby agree and understand as follows:

1. This policy document covers all those involved within the sport whether they are a Competitor, Entrant, Parent of a Competitor or Entrant, Team Official, Race Official or Motorsport Ireland Official whilst participating under Motorsport Ireland regulations regardless of their original national ASN. This policy is referred to in the entry forms for all events and is binding upon Competitors from other national ASNs in that manner.
2. Any content submitted online through the medium of the Internet by those participating or officiating at Motorsport Ireland sanctioned events should not contain material that could be deemed to be threatening, harassing, bullying, illegal, obscene, defamatory, slanderous or hostile towards any individual, team or entity participating or officiating at Motorsport Ireland sanctioned events or the Governing Body, Motorsport Ireland.
3. Content is defined as text, images, audio, video and any user generated content knowingly uploaded to the Internet.
4. Furthermore it is the responsibility of those who participate or officiate at Motorsport Ireland sanctioned events to make sure that any third party associated with them does not submit content online which would be in breach of this policy. If a third party submits such content which is clearly associated with the participant or official, it is the participant or official who will be held responsible by Motorsport Ireland for the breach of this policy. In this regard the onus is on the participant or official to prove that the third party is not in any way associated with them.
5. All those who participate or officiate at Motorsport Ireland sanctioned events are reminded that the General Competition Rules,

as defined within the current Motorsport Ireland Yearbook and / or Motorsport Ireland Website, apply at all times and that failure to adhere to the policies set out in this document will result in a breach of those regulations and the penalties and sanctions as set out in the current Yearbook and / or Website will apply.

6. By participating as a competitor or official in a Motorsport Ireland event you are deemed by the Governing Body to have made yourself aware of the content of both this policy and the General Competition Rules relevant to you and agree to comply with same. Furthermore you are aware of the adjudication process and penalties applicable upon breaching this policy as are set out in the General Competition Rules.
7. By participating in an event you are agreeing that you are fully aware and understand also that the Rights of Appeal and Appeals Process, as set out in the current Motorsport Ireland yearbook and / or website, apply.
8. Furthermore by your participation you are acknowledging that you understand and agree to the terms of this policy and undertake to uphold the spirit and nature of this policy.

MINORS / PARENTS

I, as a minor under the age of 18 years, understand that this agreement is binding on all parties and that my parent/ guardian is jointly and severally liable in respect of the resulting penalties for a breach of this policy as a result.

I, as parent / guardian for the entered minor hereby agree to the contents of this policy document and confirm that I understand I am bound legally to the terms of this policy document on behalf of the entered minor and am jointly and severally liable in respect of the resulting penalties for a breach of this policy as a result.



ADJUDICATION PROCESS FOR BREACH OF THE MOTORSPORT IRELAND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. Once a complaint is received by Motorsport Ireland, the details of the complaint are forwarded to the Panel for review immediately. Due to the time sensitive nature of such matters the panel members must be aware that they will need to convene at the earliest possible opportunity. The Panel however will only meet Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm or only in absolute exceptional circumstances outside of these times.

2. A complaint can also be received directly from Motorsport Ireland.

3. Motorsport Ireland will write to the complainant and suspected offender immediately by email and post notifying them that the procedure is underway. Motorsport Ireland will request that the offending post will be temporarily removed pending the decision of the Panel.

4. The Panel members will then meet (electronically – either by Skype or other format as applicable) and assess the merits of the complaint. Again this meeting is to occur as soon as possible after notification of the possible breach.

5. In assessing the merits of the complaint the Panel may contact the complainant, the suspected offender and Motorsport Ireland and may interview any parties or parties as the Panel deem necessary. Whilst the Panel will make its judgment on the matter using the usual rules of natural justice, in order to make a decision as swiftly as possible and to prevent further possible damage to all parties occurring, neither the complainant nor the offender has a right to appear in person before the Panel and will only do so upon the invitation of the Panel if deemed necessary.

6. The Panel can liaise with Motorsport Ireland for any advice of a practical nature to explain surrounding circumstances of the complaint. Motorsport Ireland agrees to deal with any such request immediately upon request.

7. The Panel will then make a decision and notify Motorsport Ireland of their decision. Motorsport Ireland will then notify the complainant and the suspected offender of the Panels decision within 6 hours. Motorsport Ireland will also notify the offender of the appeals process. If the complaint is upheld but is under appeal the offending article / post will remain removed pending appeal.

8. The Panel will then request Motorsport Ireland to implement the disciplinary procedures and advise the offender of the appeals process and provide the necessary forms for application to appeal under Chapter 16 of the GCRs.

DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS

If any participant or official is deemed by the Panel to have breached the Motorsport Ireland Social Media Policy the following provisions will apply:

Request for Removal and Apology

Firstly the offender will be requested by Motorsport Ireland, upon determination by the Panel, to immediately permanently remove the offending content from the relevant site and must do so within 3 hours of so being requested. If the offending content relates to a person or to an organisation or the Governing Body the offender must apologise in writing to the damaged party within 72 hours.

Initial Fine

The fine payable for a first offence must be paid within 5 working days of notification.

REFUSAL AND REPEAT OFFENCE

If the offender refuses to remove the content and/or apologise and/or pay the relevant fine on the first offence or repeats an offence under the Social Media Policy the offender will be subject to additional fines and penalties as outlined below. For the avoidance of doubt the initial fine will still stand and be added to the subsequent fine if not paid.

The fine payable for a repeat offence must be paid within 5 working days of notification.

All fines are payable directly to Motorsport Ireland.

PARENTS

If the offending party is a parent of the offender and does not hold a competition licence the monetary fines as outlined below apply. If the offender is an official / steward other sanctions as set out in the GCRs apply.

PENALTIES

Initial Breach of the Policy – Removal, Written Apology and €100.00 fine.

Subsequent Breach of the Policy or refusal to remove and apologise on initial breach– 2 penalty points on competition licence and €300.00 fine.

Subsequent Breach of the Policy (third occasion or more) – 5 penalty points on competition licence and €500.00 fine.



APPEAL MECHANISM

The offender may appeal the above sanctions to the Governing Body in writing within seven days of the Notice of the Imposition of the penalty under Chapter 16 of the GCR.

The complainant does not have a right to appeal.

The costs of the appeal will be borne by the Governing Body if the offender is successful on appeal or by the offender if the penalty is upheld. Such costs are set out in the GCR.

Note: In the case of an offender who is under 18 his or her guardian or parent will be jointly and severally liable for the fine and costs of the **Court of Appeal**.