**SUHC SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY**

**DATE**: 15th **May, 2019**

**PURPOSE**:

This policy has been written to demonstrate the commitment of the SUHC Committee of Management (The Club) and its various sections (Juniors, Women’s, Men’s and Master’s) in the provision of a safe and supportive playing and non-playing, club environment for all players and members.

**COMMITMENT TO APPROPRIATE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA**:

The use of social media is a valuable and appropriate means of communication within a large sporting organisation such as SUHC. However, for the protection of all players and members, everyone needs to be aware that The Club has a zero tolerance to social media posts of an inappropriate nature that targets individual or groups of players in an abusive, discriminatory or bullying manner.

**APPLICATION OF THE POLICY**:

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation including but not limited to

* Club or Section administrators
* Junior and Senior team coaches and supporting personnel and officials
* Junior, Senior or Masters players
* Parents of players
* Spectators and supporters

Everyone above has a role in promoting the responsible use of social media respecting the rights of and protection of all players/members. This includes acting on notifications to SUHC officials by club members of the inappropriate use of social media by other club members or representatives.

Inappropriate use of social media can take many forms and this policy will apply when there is evidence of or potential negative impact of inappropriate social media postings about other club members. SUHC members are reminded that the web is not anonymous and should assume that things they write can be traced back to them.

Further, they are reminded:

* To demonstrate courtesy and respect for others as you expect to be treated.
* To protect personal privacy by NOT including personal information about themselves or others in their posts.
* To NOT be abusive, threatening or harassing towards anyone.
* To NOT make defamatory or libellous comments.
* To NOT use obscene, insulting, offensive or hateful language.

SUHC values providing a safe, supportive environment where members can enjoy and grow with their hockey experiences. We value the diversity of our membership and hence will not tolerate social media postings of a bullying, abusive or discriminatory nature.

**REPORTING OF INAPPROPRIATE SOCIAL MEDIA USE**:

SUHC has appointed **Zak Bahramis** as our **Member Protection Information Officer** (**MPIO**) with specific responsibility to respond to concerns made by officials volunteers, players or parents of players. He can be contacted at [childsafety@suhc.com.au](mailto:childsafety@suhc.com.au) or on

0432 173 144.

Players or parents of junior players can also report instances of inappropriate social media posts by members to **Heads of Sections** (**Shaun Desmond** – Juniors, **Alisia Simmons** – Women’s, **Michael Campbell** – Men’s, **Suzie Styles** – Master’s) or other relevant committee members. The Women’s section have recently appointed **Graham Styles** in the role of a **Player Welfare Coordinator** and he can be contacted at [grahsty@hotmail.com](mailto:grahsty@hotmail.com) or on 0402 014 794.   Contact details can be found on <https://suhc.com.au/contact-us/>

The Club will make all players and members aware of their responsibility to using social media in a responsible manner. Matters reported to the MPIO or other club officials will be investigated with the intention of finding resolution to the matter for the protection of all members.  From 2020 The Club will ask players to sign up to this policy when they register with SUHC.  For parents registering for their children we would ask that they make them aware of this and the other policies.

**SCOPE OF ACTIONS BY SUHC**:

If issues are brought to the attention of The Club then resolution to the issue may involve speaking to players (and in the case of junior players their parents) about the impact of inappropriate social media posts in order to protect the safe playing and club environment for all SUHC members. Depending on the severity of the issue possible actions may include suspension from playing or asking the member of the club to leave.

**REVIEW OF POLICY**:

This policy will be reviewed in 2 years from the time of adopting it through Committee of Management by the MPIO and other relevant club officials.

Date of Implementation:                                                  Date for review:

15th May, 2019 14th May, 2021