



**Branch 5 Sub-Aqua
Club**

Social Media Policy

Scope

Social media (including personal and professional websites, blogs, chat rooms and bulletin boards; social networks, such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter; video-sharing sites such as YouTube; and email) are a common means of communication and self-expression.

It's essential that members make informed decisions about how they use the internet, mobile phone and email communications to protect our BSAC club, Branch 5 and our people.

Everyone involved in our club has the responsibility to safeguard members in and out of the water, but also including online communications.

Branch 5 Sub Aqua Club Social Media Social Media policy

The committee want our Social Media pages to be a place where people are comfortable to share how they feel about the club and talk about their experiences in a fun environment. We hope that all our members will adhere to this policy when they are on the club's Social Media pages or any of the associated communication methods such as WhatsApp or similar apps..

Where WhatsApp or similar apps groups are created for the purpose of managing or promoting a club trip or event they should be seen by the creator and those using the groups as being covered by the club social media policy. They should only be used by the members of the group for the purposes of managing the trip or event and content should therefore be monitored by the group creator on the clubs behalf and in line with club standards. However if the group is kept going for social reasons then this should be made clear to its members and it should be renamed to remove any reference to the club.

It is the responsibility of all members to:

1. Refrain from publishing critical or derogatory comments about other clubs, training organisations, members or divers, or anything else as you are personally responsible for the content you publish and could be viewed as controversial or potentially inflammatory.
2. Avoid hostile or harassing communications in any posts or other online communications. Harassment is any offensive conduct based on a person's race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, religion or any other status protected by law.
3. Clubs should identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, give credit to the original publisher or author.
4. The club will be responsible for monitoring responses to 'official' club online posts (such as those posted on the club's Facebook page).

5. If a blogger or any other online participant posts an inaccurate or negative comment about your club or anyone associated with the club, do not reply but seek advice from your club manager.

6. Act ethically and responsibly. Don't misrepresent yourself.

These platforms/forums are for diving and club related items and should not be used as a platform for personal or political statements.

Merseyside Sub-Aqua Club Social Media Policy - Moderation Policy

Most of the time we don't moderate posts on the club's Social Media pages – only on the rare occasion that someone has used offensive language, made libellous allegations about named or identifiable individuals or has demonstrated any of the behaviours we have listed above.

The committee has a duty to protect our members. We don't want to have to delete comments but our legal position is that any post containing a libellous accusation, should be removed. If an individual continues to post offensive, threatening or libellous content or has demonstrated any of the behaviours listed above then we'll be forced to block that person from the page. Minor infractions will be dealt with by means of a verbal warning for a first offence or in repeat circumstances suspension from the site for a given period of time. In addition, members should be aware that the committee reserve the right to withdraw the club membership of any individual found guilty of a serious breach of this policy (as per the Constitution of Branch 5).

If you're concerned that a posting or other user has broken any of our policy or you're worried about any comment or content then you should contact a member of the committee immediately and let us know.

Contact details:

Welfare officer: welfareofficer@merseydivers.com

Committee: committee@merseydivers.com

Approved by:

Chairperson Mr Alan Jones

Vice Chairperson Mr David Edwards

