

***The Side Saddle Association***  
***Social Media Policy***  
(10.10.2016 updated 31.10.2023)

The Side Saddle Association (SSA) runs a Facebook business page and a closed group; it does not operate any other social media sites including, but not restricted to X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube etc, and any information that may be shared on these sites does not represent the views of the Association. Each Area is permitted to run their own Facebook page and other social media sites, these must be managed directly by the specific Area. Any information shared on Area managed sites may not necessarily represent the views of the Side Saddle Association.

**SSA Facebook Business Page:** Used as a one-way communication tool to post formal notices and other important information, it does not respond to messages.

**SSA Facebook Group Page:** Open to members and non-members and whilst SSA notices are posted on the page it is primarily for education and information purposes.

**USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

This policy does not intend to inhibit personal use of social media but instead flags up those areas in which conflicts might arise.

1. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other social networking sites of a similar nature are popular with both Members and non-members for communicating and sharing information and pictures.
2. Be aware that any information you make public could affect how people perceive the SSA.
3. Inappropriate and offensive comments of any nature will not be tolerated under any circumstances – this includes remarks about the SSA by Judges, Instructors, Members and non-Members, etc.
4. As a SSA Member, National Officer, Area Officer, Instructor or Judge, you should not post any information or comments which may be perceived to be derogatory, prejudicial, racist or detrimental to the reputation and interests of the Association or its Members, or that may be attributed as being the opinion of the Association whether this be at Area or National level. Any person found to be making such remarks in an SSA related group will be removed from the group without explanation.
5. Whilst it is recognised that the SSA cannot and has no desire to control posts made on an Officer's or Member's personal page, they can and indeed will, within the confines of the Social Media Policy, react to any post that is deemed to be objectionable, defamatory, threatening, unseemly or damaging to the name of the SSA or any of its Members.
6. Images of SSA Grade Tests, Examinations or Seminars must not be posted, in the interest of fairness and to prevent miscommunication.
7. Do not circulate on social media, any personal information relating to any other person.
8. An online post will be considered as libellous if it is damaging to the Association's or any Officer's or Member's reputation.
9. Re-posting of a third party's comments could be seen as an endorsement of the original post and subsequent action may be taken.
10. If a complaint/grievance is being investigated any public communication by the person(s) making the complaint, or any person(s) involved in any way, will result in the investigation being immediately closed.
11. No Member should use an alias or pseudonym to circumnavigate this use of social media statement and if found to be the case disciplinary action may be taken.
12. The SSA Name and Mark are subject to copyright and cannot be used on social media other than by area committees as laid down in the Standard Area Agreement.
13. Noncompliance with any areas of this policy may result in disciplinary action and/or civil proceedings being taken.

**DISCLOSURE UNDER LAW OR REGULATION**

Please be aware the SSA will fully co-operate with any law enforcement authorities or court order requesting or directing the SSA to disclose the identity or locate anyone posting any material in breach of this policy. If we are requested by the police or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities to provide your personal information, the SSA is entitled to do so.

31 October 2023