

**Social Media Guidelines**

These guidelines are designed to provide helpful, practical advice on using social media effectively. To set the parameters for these social media guidelines, we should keep in mind three things:

1. We live in a society that promotes free speech and freedom of expression; it is generally expected that persons playing sport at a professional level should reflect the values of the society it represents.
2. Anything that you post is public and visible so you must be responsible in what you post.
3. Social networking is monitored and you may fall foul of the DRA Rules if you act outside these guidelines.

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| **Do’s**  | **Don’ts**  |
| **DO...Show your personality.** Being yourself and letting your personality shine is what your fans are looking for. Personality creates stars in our sport. However, try to avoid any humour that might be considered in bad taste.  | **DON’T...Talk negatively about other competitors, countries, organisations or brands.** Any gossip or slanderous comments can be easily highlighted and taken the wrong way. Remember that you are an ambassador for your sport. This is likely to put you in breach of the DRA Rules. |
| **DO...Remember everyone can see you.** Before you write anything, remember that it’s public and anyone can take your words and put them in a newspaper, on a website or the TV. Media will be monitoring social media and will use your words as quotes. Pause and think carefully before you mention embarrassing stories about you or other sports persons. *Stephanie Rice (an Australian triple Olympic swimming gold medallist) lost a lucrative sponsorship deal after she posted an inappropriate comment on Twitter.*  | **DON’T...Forget your rivals may be reading** Other competitors may gain confidence if they read any comments you make about poor form in practice, feeling tired, upset or low on confidence. *A GB gold medallist rower was given the belief that he could win a medal against one of his American competitors by reading his rival’s blog: “From his blog I got the impression that he was not some untouchable superstar. He had worries and demons like everyone else. He was beatable “.* |
| **DO...Be responsible.** You are personally responsible for the content you provide and how you behave online. Be careful and if you’re in doubt, don’t post it. *England cricketer Dimitri Mascarenhas was uncomplimentary about national team selector Geoff Miller and was fined £1,000.*  | **DON’T...Swear.** Even suggestions of foul or abusive language by replacing letters with symbols e.g. s@£t should be avoided. Similarly, don’t get into disputes with your audience – instead, show that you have listened and be responsive in a positive manner. *The ECB suspended Azeem Rafiq, the captain of England under-19 team, for his use of inappropriate language on Twitter.*  |
| **DO...Share your performance and achievements on the tour.** Take your fans with you on a journey through the tour. Let them know what it requires to be a professional darts player.  | **DON’T...Assume anything you delete will completely disappear** It’s almost impossible to completely remove information on social networking sites even if you “remove/delete” it from the original source. There is no way of knowing where it may have been reposted. So think before you post.  |
|  **DO...Report anything that concerns you.** If you see any comments or photos that concern you or you feel in the course of a conversation that somebody may need help or be in danger, report it to the relevant authority.  | **DON’T...Be provoked into responding.** There are accounts set up to provoke you into controversial discussions or to respond to abuse. These accounts are often anonymous or createdusing false details and the only person who is identifiable is you.**DON’T...Link to any unsuitable content.** Make sure that any links you give are sending users to appropriate content and following the guidelines stated above. |

 **Important Hints and Tips…**

**Privacy Settings**

Review privacy settings of the social networking site you are using. Choose social sites and appropriate settings depending on the content you are posting. Any information that you post should be considered public, regardless of your privacy settings since your postings could be reposted elsewhere and may be viewed by people other than your intended audience.

**Facebook Accounts**

We suggest you create (or keep) a private account to which you only accept and communicate with your close friends and family. This should be separate from a “public‟ account to which you accept members of the public and use to promote yourself effectively.

**Twitter – Direct Messaging**

Learn the difference between a general tweet and a Direct Message and how to use them appropriately.

*England cricketer Kevin Pietersen, believing he was replying to a private message, expressed his anger at being dropped from the Twenty20 and one-day squads against Pakistan, for which he was fined an undisclosed sum by the England and Wales Cricket Board.*