

**BURBAGE RIDING CLUB:**  
**INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA CODE OF CONDUCT.**

Burbage Riding Club recognises the importance of the internet and social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, home web-pages, sites, chat rooms, BBM and all other forms of electronic communication and the role “social media” plays in the day to day lives of its growing membership.

However, this Code of Conduct exists to guide members when using social media and the internet. Failure to adhere to this code of conduct will lead to investigations and disciplinary action being taken against a member which may include expulsion from the club.

Whilst using Social Media you should be aware that Burbage Riding Club will make random internet searches to identify postings which include references to Burbage Riding Club, or its committee, judges or members.

- All members must ensure any material that is transmitted or posted on social media is clearly stated to be a personal view and not the view of Burbage Riding Club.
- The content posted or transmitted must not contain any information which could damage the name or reputation of Burbage Riding Club, its current or former members, committee, judges past and present or which is derogatory to the character of, or prejudicial to, the interests of Burbage Riding Club.
- All members who are identified as members of Burbage Riding Club, must not post or transmit any material that is or can be considered abusive, threatening, defamatory, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, pornographic or in breach of the laws governing sexually explicit material.
- Neither should it breach the clubs confidentiality regarding finances or club activities. Members are further reminded to respect individual’s right to privacy and not to cause annoyance or distress
- Recent legislation has been passed to protect individuals on line and members are reminded that any post that encourages or incites conduct that would constitute a criminal offence has serious consequences. In addition they may also give rise to civil liability if contrary to the laws of the land.
- If we are requested to provide your personal information, by the police, safeguarding agencies or any other regulatory or government authority investigating suspected illegal activities Burbage Riding Club will do so with no warning to the individual or prior permission to do so; as long as that request is within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1984
- Any breach of this code of conduct will constitute a breach of Burbage Riding Club rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against the individual.

- Whilst Burbage Riding Club has no control over non-members on social media, it acknowledges this as an area that needs to be policed effectively to protect the committee, membership and judges past and present of Burbage Riding Club. Therefore Burbage Riding Club will work closely with any society or club the offending party may be part of, to ensure the offender is dealt with by their respective club or societies own code of conduct.
- Burbage Riding Club produced images should not be copied or used in social media without written consent from the committee and all members should be careful using images of children on line.

Any member may make a complaint regarding the conduct of another as long as they are able to produce screen shots or actual postings to support their concerns. Complaints proven to be frivolous or vexatious will lead the committee to take disciplinary action against the complainant.

Two committee members will view the image and in consultation with the Safeguarding Officer will decide if the complaint is true and accurate. The Secretary will then invite the alleged perpetrator to explain the post and dependent on the response may call a meeting which the Chair will manage to discipline the individual. If the individual does not cooperate or attend the meeting then they will be expelled from the club.