



INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION SECTION IRELAND

Policy on Use of Social Media

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1. Introduction & Policy Rationale

- 1.1 Social Media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and all messaging services are increasingly important tools providing members of Section Ireland of the International Police Association (IPA) with unlimited opportunities for instant communication with other IPA members Worldwide, complementing the traditional communication methods used by Section Ireland since the Section's affiliation in 1955.
- 1.2 Notwithstanding the obvious benefits of social media to an organisation such as IPA, there are inherent personal and corporate risks associated with operating social media sites, particularly in the context of content relating to IPA members who are serving members of An Garda Síochána or who represent any other voluntary or professional organisation.
- 1.3 This policy document aims to establish clear guidelines for IPA members authorised to use social media on behalf of Section Ireland of IPA, to ensure that it is effective, appropriate, ethical, in compliance with legal obligations, and in line with the central ethos of IPA - Servo per Amikeco... Service through Friendship.
- 1.4 This policy document should be read in conjunction with the IPA Section Ireland 'Constitution, Rules, Schedules 2014'.
- 1.5 Compliance with this policy document does not discharge any other responsibilities or obligations set out by organisations or entities other than Section Ireland of IPA.

2. Definitions

'IPA' means International Police Association.

'Member' means a member of the IPA.

'Social Media' means computer-mediated or mobile phone technology that allow individuals, companies, governments, and other organisations to create, view and share information, pictures, ideas, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks, with the aim of developing social and professional contacts, and includes, but is not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, Reddit, Tumblr, Vine, Snapchat, Flickr, Whatsapp, Signal or Telegram

'Site' includes any website, page, blog, or other IT platform.

'Content' includes written words, images, audio, video, blog, infographic, article, or anything posted or shared on social media.

'NEC' means the National Executive Committee of IPA Section Ireland.

'Secretary General' means the Secretary General of IPA Section Ireland

3. Approval for IPA Social Media Sites

- 3.1 Authorisation to create any social media site, purporting to represent the Section, a Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland, shall be obtained, from the relevant Regional Committee, Commission or Club, or in the case of any other group, from the NEC, in advance of publishing, or otherwise making public, the social media site.
- 3.2 Any social media sites created prior to the ratification of this policy document shall be deemed to have complied with the provisions of Section 2.1 above, unless content posted on the site is deemed to be in contravention of Section 4 of this policy document.
- 3.3 Each Region, Commission or Club shall nominate one or more members as necessary to operate, or otherwise administrate, approved social media sites, on behalf of their Section, Region, Commission or Club.
- 3.4 Each Regional Assistant Secretary/Communications (or Regional Secretary), Commission Chairperson, or Club Secretary shall notify the Secretary General of the creation of any new social media sites purporting to represent the Section, Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland members.
- 3.5 The **Editor/Communications Officer** of IPA Section Ireland shall maintain a database of all social media sites, purporting to represent the Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland members.

4. Content

- 4.1 Members authorised to operate approved social media sites shall ensure that any content posted or otherwise published on approved social media sites is accurate, impartial, respectful, ethical, and appropriate.
- 4.2 Content that may be perceived to be offensive, political, discriminatory, or critical of the decisions, policies, or practices of any Government, Court, State Body, or any other organisation shall not be posted or otherwise published on any social media site purporting to represent the Section, Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland members.
- 4.3 Content shall at all times respect the laws governing GDPR, copyright, privacy, libel, defamation, the protection of intellectual property rights, and comply with the fundamental principles of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).
- 4.4 Any content depicting images, audio or video of any other member shall not be posted or otherwise published without the express consent of the member concerned.

4.5 Individual views/opinions should be expressly stated as such

5. Moderation

- 5.1 The **Editor/Communications Officer** of IPA Section Ireland, **on being notified via the Secretary General of content that may be in breach of this policy**, shall be responsible for moderating all social media sites purporting to represent the Section, Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland, and shall make any recommendations to the NEC as he/she deems appropriate regarding the administration or content of same.
- 5.2 Any content posted or otherwise published on any social media site purporting to represent the Section, Region, Commission, Club or any other group of IPA Section Ireland, deemed by the NEC to be in contravention of any of the provisions of Section 4 of this policy document, or, in the opinion of the NEC, deemed in any way inappropriate, shall be removed by the relevant member/administrator at the request of the NEC.
- 5.3 Any member/administrator to whom a request is made by the NEC, pursuant to Section 5.2 of this policy document, shall remove/modify the content in question, as soon as possible, or as otherwise directed by the NEC.
- 5.4 Any member/administrator failing to comply with a request pursuant to Section 5.2 of this policy document shall be liable to sanctions, as set out in Rule No. 4 of the IPA Section Ireland Constitution, Rules and Schedules, 2014.