**Social Media Policy**

Social media (including, but not limited to: personal and professional websites, blogs, chat rooms, bulletin boards, social networks, video-sharing sites and e-mail) are a common means of communication and self-expression, and when used appropriately can make a positive contribution both to members’ lives and the wellbeing of the club as a whole.

At the same time, members of the club have a responsibility to make informed decisions about how they use social media, such that the safety and dignity of the club and its membership is protected.

**It is the responsibility of all members to:**

* Refrain from publishing derogatory comments about Penny Lane Striders, other clubs, runners or any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects;
* Avoid the use of hostile or harassing communications in any online dialogue. For the purposes of this policy such harassment is defined as: **any offensive conduct based on a person’s race, sex, gender identity, national origin, colour, disability, age, sexual orientation, marital status, religion or any other characteristic protected by law**;
* Refrain from posting requests for fundraising on the Penny Lane Striders public Facebook page, private Facebook group, Twitter feed or web Forum;
* Identify all copyrighted or borrowed material with citations and links. When publishing direct paraphrased quotes, thoughts, ideas, photos or videos, credit is to be given to the original publisher or author.

Representatives from the club Committee or other representatives acting with the explicit approval of the Committee are responsible for coordinating responses to online posts, and will endeavour to resolve individual or collective concerns in private without recourse to social media. These representatives are also empowered to identify and – if it is felt necessary following consultation with other Committee members - remove any content from media administered by the club that is deemed to contravene this social media policy.

In the event that inaccurate or defamatory comments about the club or anyone associated with the club are posted by members on social media, the club’s Committee reserves the right to consult with UK Athletics and/or instigate disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the club Constitution.

Last updated | July 2018