



RULE 21 OF 2015: AWEBSA: Social Media

R21.1 Introduction

With the continual growth in social media, it is fast becoming the preferred method of communication amongst many in the world across generations. It began with the onset of Google and the formation of email, which has gradually taken over from what many refer to these days as 'snail mail'. Although some have grown to accept the concept of social media, the postal system is most definitely still used and certainly has a place to be used.

In line with the AWEBSA Code of Conduct regarding the responsible use of Social media it has been regarded necessary to set some ground rules in this respect.

The social media rule with regard to AWEBSA stems only as far as Facebook and WhatsApp at this point in time so this document will refer to these mediums only, however should things change in the future the principles should remain the same.

R21.2 Facebook

R21.2.1 Introduction

Facebook is a public forum whereby any person from anywhere in the world may request to join the page.

The posts are made public to anyone who links to the page and may comment as they feel so inclined.

R21.2.2 The AWEBBSA General Secretary and PRO will be the administrators of the Facebook page.

R21.2.3 Requests will be screened and be accepted at their sole discretion. The administrators of the page therefor controls the acceptance of membership and at both his/her own discretion edits and/or deletes comments or posts and at the request of individual members on the page who may feel something is not portraying the ideals of AWEBBSA.

R21.2.4 Individuals that post what is regarded as spam will be deleted and the members removed from the page and blocked from further admission, for example anything that has nothing to do with budgies and or the keeping, breeding or feeding of budgies.

R21.2.5 Other actions that would lead to immediate deletion from the page would be:

R21.2.5.1 Foul language; and

R21.2.5.2 Being disrespectful in any manner to someone on the group whether they are an AWEBBSA member or not. According to the AWEBBSA Code of Conduct, members should at all times be considerate of others opinions, whether they agree with them or not. It is acceptable to debate a point, so long as there is no name calling or maligning another in any way. By so doing, it not only puts the person in a bad light, but it also spotlights AWEBBSA in mismanagement of its members. Such instances will be subjected to disciplinary action.

R21.3 WhatsApp

WhatsApp is not a public forum and members are added by an appointed administrator of that group, whether they created the group or not. This has become an informal way of communicating with people in a normally quick and effective way. Within AWEBBSA there are a number of WhatsApp groups in varying levels of protocol.

R21.3.1 AWEBBSA WhatsApp Group

R21.3.2.1 This is a formal group reserved for paid-up members of AWEBBSA only;

R21.3.2.2 The group will be administered by the AWEBBSA General Secretary;

R21.3.2.3 Once a person's application for membership of AWEBBSA has been approved and their affiliation fees paid they will be added to this group by the General Secretary of AWEBBSA;

R21.3.2.4 The purpose of the AWEBBSA group is:

- To make known to all members anything to do with the general running of AWEBBSA. This may be a decision coming from EXCO OR the Governing Body OR Management to its' members;
- For both questions and/or debate applicable or pertaining to the housing, breeding, feeding, colour identification or general wellbeing of budgies;
- To teach and help the beginners and steer them in the right direction. The members who are considered more knowledgeable are invited to give their inputs as often as time allows, given family and work commitments which should ultimately make our association stronger;

- To focus on a wider scope to the club groups when more detailed information may be required from members who may have more knowledge and/or experience;
- To advertise upcoming dates such as shows and promotional events;
- To run approved national competitions or raffles, for example; and
- To advertise budgies for sale or seed or other products related to the keeping and well-being of budgies.

R21.3.2.5 Conduct on the group:

- Members are reminded of the requirements of the AWEBSA Code of Conduct. Members in breach will be removed from the group by the administrator and the matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation and to recommend sanction;
- Posting of general inspirational messages should be avoided and should be placed on the Kletskamer Group;
- Questions are to be treated in the same manner of respect to the person making the enquiry;
- The members of AWEBSA vary in stature from Beginners to Champions and from juniors to pensioners and no question should be thought to be too simple or too stupid to be asked;
- Opinions will vary and by differing, an overall conclusion may be determined by the majority, however, it must be remembered that no two people breed their birds in the same town nor the same climate nor in the same aviaries;

R21.3.2.6 Leaving the group:

- Members may leave the group by personal choice if they wish, but it's not desired because they may miss out on decisions relevant to the association, membership as well as sharing in valuable information; and
- Members can set the group to silence on their cellular phones in order not to be disturbed by the activities on the group and review the conversation at their leisure.

R21.3.3 AWEBBSA Kletskamer WhatsApp Group

R21.3.3.1 The AWEBBSA Kletskamer is an informal group for paid-up members of AWEBBSA only.

R21.3.3.2 Once a person's application for membership of AWEBBSA has been approved and their affiliation fees paid they will be added to this group by the General Secretary of AWEBBSA;

R21.3.3.3 There will be two administrators running the AWEBBSA Kletskamer group, one of whom will be the AWEBBSA General Secretary and the other will be the AWEBBSA PRO.

R21.3.3.4 The purpose of the AWEBBSA Kletskamer group is:

- For general 'chit chat' which does not necessarily have to be about budgies;
- For members to 'chat' amongst fellow AWEBBSA members and form friendships via this social media forum between people with a commonality;
- Use it for general greetings, news, views, prayer requests and anything of interest to the person posting; and

- For birthday wishes and other milestones in members' personal life they wish to share.

R21.3.3.6 Conduct of the group:

- Members are reminded of the requirements of the AWEBBSA Code of Conduct. Members in breach will be warned and removed from the group and the matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee to investigate and recommend sanction; and
- Anything shared on this group should also be treated with the utmost respect for both the person posting and anyone commenting thereafter.

R21.3.4 AWEBBSA Governing Body WhatsApp Group

R21.3.4.1 Composition of the group:

- Founder members of AWEBBSA;
- AWEBBSA EXCO members (AWEBBSA chairperson, Vice chairperson, General Secretary and Treasurer),
- Chairpersons of each club;
- Chairperson of the judge's committee; and
- Reigning champion of each section (If applicable).

R21.3.4.2 The administrator of the group will be the General Secretary of AWEBBSA and she will be responsible to keep the membership of the group up to date;

R21.3.4.3 Changes may be made to membership of this group at varying times, dependent upon positions held by different members. Some members may hold more than any one of the above mentioned positions at the same time, however the only people who will consistently remain on this group will be the founding

members (until they resign or default in terms of the AWEBBSA Constitution and rules);

R21.3.4.4 The purpose of this group will be for quick decision making and voting on matters relating to AWEBBSA and moving the association forward;

R21.3.4.5 Members subject to disciplinary investigation may be removed from the group; and

R21.3.4.5 Governing Body members are only permitted to leave the groups should they resign from the Association or from a post being represented on the Governing Body.

R21.3.5 AWEBBSA EXCO WhatsApp Group

R21.3.5.1 Members of this group will be the AWEBBSA Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer;

R21.3.5.2 The administrator of the AWEBBSA EXCO group will be the AWEBBSA General Secretary; and

R21.3.5.3 This group is for discussing administrative matters and making decisions pertaining to the running of AWEBBSA which may or may not further involve the AWEBBSA Governing Body or Management.

R21.3.6 AWEBBSA Auction WhatsApp Group

R21.3.6.1 The purpose of this group is to run an auction of budgies at specified dates and times for the benefit of the Association's members;

- R21.3.6.2 This group is open to any paid-up AWEBBSA member who requests to be added;
- R21.3.6.3 The AWEBBSA Governing Body may decide to open the group to non-members to stimulate participation; and
- R21.3.6.3 The group will be administered by a volunteer within the AWEBBSA membership.

R21.3.7 AWEBBSA Club WhatsApp Group

- R21.3.7.1 These groups are of a more informal nature;
- R21.3.7.2 Members of these groups may be both *AWEBBSA members and potential AWEBBSA members* of that particular club ONLY (This is to defer from members of other clubs having a say in the running of a club that does not concern them. Should advice be required from members outside of the concerned club, it is preferred that the matter be raised on the AWEBBSA group for discussion amongst a wider group of members.);
- R21.3.7.3 The administrator of the AWEBBSA Club groups will be the Club secretary and/or PRO;
- R21.3.7.4 In order to help new clubs get established, assist with problems or areas of concern and/or relay important information for club members that may be necessary to share from EXCO or the Governing Body that may concern that particular club only, it is recommended that any one or two (as the club decides) members of EXCO be added;
- R21.3.7.5 General Club matters should be discussed on this group for the benefit of their members; and
- R21.3.7.6 It may be run in a manner that suits both members and the club EXCO.