



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 and 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 regards 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 as recorded in this Rule 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 AWEBSA General Secretary and PRO will be the administrators of the Association's Facebook page.

R21.2.3 Requests will be screened and be accepted at their sole discretion. The administrators of the page therefore control 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 a particular post is not portraying the ideals of AWEBSA.

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;

R21.2.5.2 Being disrespectful in any manner to someone on the group whether they are an AWEBBSA member or not;

R21.2.5.3 According to the AWEBBSA Code of Conduct, members should at all times be considerate of others opinions, whether they agree with them or not; and

R21.2.5.4 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(s) 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**

R21.3.1.1 This is a formal group reserved for paid-up members of AWEBBSA only;

R21.3.1.2 The group will be administered by the AWEBBSA General Secretary and PRO;

R21.3.1.3 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 AWEBBSA General Secretary or PRO;

R21.3.1.4 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 the AWEBBSA EXCO or the Governing Body to its' members;
- For both questions and/or debate applicable or pertaining to the housing, breeding, feeding, colour identification or general welfare 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 the 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 congratulate members on their birthdays;
- 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.
- R21.3.1.5 Conduct on the group:
- Members are reminded of the requirements of the AWEBBSA Code of Conduct. Members in breach will be removed from the group by the administrator(s) and the matter referred to the Disciplinary Committee for investigation and to recommend sanction;
 - Posting of general inspirational messages and pass-on messages is strictly not allowed;
 - Questions are to be treated in the same manner of respect to the person making the enquiry;
 - The members of AWEBBSA 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; and
 - 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 conditions nor the same climate nor in the same aviaries.
- R21.3.1.6 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 on silent on their cellular phones in order not to be disturbed by the activities on the group and review the conversation at their leisure.

R21.3.2 AWEBBSA Governing Body WhatsApp Group

- R21.3.2.1 Composition of the group:
- Founder members of AWEBBSA;
 - AWEBBSA EXCO members (AWEBBSA Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, PRO and General Show Secretary),
 - Chairpersons of each club;
 - Chairperson of the judge's committee; and
 - Reigning champion of each section (If applicable).
- R21.3.2.2 The administrator of the group will be the AWEBBSA General Secretary and he/she will be responsible to keep the membership of the group up to date;
- R21.3.2.3 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);

- R21.3.2.4 The purpose of this group will be for quick decision making and voting on matters relating to the AWEBSA Constitution and Rules and Disciplinary Appeal matters;
- R21.3.2.5 Members subject to disciplinary investigation may be removed from the group; and
- R21.3.2.6 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.

R21.3.3 AWEBSA EXCO WhatsApp Group

- R21.3.3.1 Members of this group will be the AWEBSA Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, General Secretary, Treasurer, PRO and General Show Secretary;
- R21.3.3.2 The administrator of the AWEBSA EXCO group will be the AWEBSA General Secretary; and
- R21.3.3.3 This group is for discussing administrative matters and making decisions pertaining to the running of AWEBSA.

R21.3.4 AWEBSA Auction WhatsApp Group

- R21.3.4.1 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;
- R21.3.4.2 This group is open to any paid-up AWEBSA member who requested to be added;
- R21.3.4.3 The AWEBSA EXCO may decide to open the group to non-members to stimulate participation; and
- R21.3.4.4 The group will be administered by a volunteer within the AWEBSA membership.

R21.3.5 AWEBSA Club WhatsApp Groups

- R21.3.5.1 These groups are of a more informal nature;
- R21.3.5.2 Members of these groups may be both *AWEBSA members and potential AWEBSA members* of that particular club ONLY (This is to defer 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 AWEBSA group for discussion amongst a wider group of members.);
- R21.3.5.3 The administrator of the AWEBSA Club groups will be decided by the Club concerned;
- R21.3.5.4 In order to help new Clubs get established, assist with problems or areas of concern and/or relay important information for Club members

- it is recommended that any one or two (as the club decides) members of the AWEBSA EXCO be added;
- R21.3.5.5 General Club matters should be discussed on this group for the benefit of their members; and
- R21.3.5.6 It must be run in a manner that suits the majority of the Club's members.