



CAUTHE social media policy

Policy adopted	November 2016
Review date	November 2018

Rationale

Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, LinkedIn, YouTube, as well as forums and blogs can be positive avenues for sharing interests and knowledge and expressing creativity. Participation in these online communities is therefore supported.

However, online discussions and posting of online content have the potential to cause distress to individuals or groups of members and detract from members' involvement in CAUTHE activities.

Code of conduct

The CAUTHE social media policy is guided by the key principles of the Code of conduct which are:

- CAUTHE wishes to operate in an environment where people show respect for others and their property. Respect is defined as consideration for another's physical and emotional well-being and possessions, to ensure no damage or deprivation is caused to either.
- CAUTHE wishes to operate in an environment that is free from harassment. Harassment is defined as any action directed at an individual or group that creates a hostile, intimidating or offensive environment.
- CAUTHE wishes to actively promote equality and operate in a non-discriminatory environment. This involves respecting the right, dignity and worth of every human being, within the context of the activity and treat everyone equally.
- Persons to whom this Code applies acknowledge and agree to comply with CAUTHE's disciplinary rules ([CAUTHE Objects and Rules](#), 10 *Disciplining of members*). If any disciplinary action is taken, persons directly affected shall be given the opportunity to participate in those proceedings and the right to appeal against any decision against them.

Policy statement

CAUTHE promotes responsible use of social media and requires its members, when posting about the organisation and its members or CAUTHE endorsed, promoted or conducted events or activities, to observe the following guidelines for responsible social media use.

1. CAUTHE requires members to take responsibility for their own words and for the comments allowed on their sites or forums. CAUTHE members will not post unacceptable content, and will delete comments that contain it. Unacceptable content is defined as anything included or linked to that:
 - a. is being used to abuse, harass, stalk or threaten others
 - b. is libelous, knowingly false, or misrepresents another person
 - c. infringes upon a copyright or trademark
 - d. violates an obligation of confidentiality
 - e. violates the privacy of others
2. CAUTHE members don't post anything online that they wouldn't say in person.
3. CAUTHE members connect privately before they respond publicly. When members encounter conflicts and misrepresentation in social networking sites, they make every effort to talk privately and directly to the person(s) involved, or find an intermediary who can do so, before publishing any posts or comments about the issue.
4. CAUTHE strongly discourages personal attacks. When someone who is publishing comments that are offensive, members will tell them so (privately, if possible—see 3 above).
5. Anonymous comments are discouraged. All content posters should be required to supply a valid email address before they can post, authorised posters may identify themselves with an alias, rather than their real name.
6. CAUTHE prefers members not to respond to inappropriate comments about other members, the organisation, event or site. If posts veer into abuse or libel, CAUTHE supports the use of the disciplinary rules to resolve issues. CAUTHE encourages all members to 'think before posting'.
7. Members should recognise that even if posting to a private section of a social networking site comments can appear in public areas through a variety of means and can easily be found. Members should avoid posting something they will regret now or later.