



# COMMENTING GUIDELINES - SOCIAL MEDIA

Our comments section is a place for healthy, constructive and challenging conversations. The basic rules are simple – we encourage you to share your views, but be respectful of your fellow commenters. We don't allow abuse, racism, sexism, predatory behaviour, trolls, threats, spam, ALL CAPS, or hyperlinks to other sites.

Please remember, our comments pages are public – if your comment is approved, you can see it, your friends can see it, and the person (or people) you're commenting on can see it. It's real.

The guidelines below, as well as the context in which a comment is made, are all taken into consideration by our moderators. If your comment does not meet these standards, it will be deleted.

We aim to have constructive conversations in an environment where people feel welcomed, accepted and safe to share their original thoughts and ideas.

## **Our Commenting Guidelines**

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- Be respectful – in addressing other commenters, of their boundaries and of our authors, volunteers and Staff. We don't allow personal attacks – this is a moderated public forum and we aim to keep it a troll-free zone.
- Readers are welcome to disagree with each other, but they should do so respectfully.
- We welcome your opinions but stay focused on the subject at hand – criticise ideas, not people.
- Comments which may cause offence, are prejudicial or profane, allege infidelity, corruption, or criminal activity, or are sexist, or racist, will not be published.

Please note: Bowls SA will remove hyperlinks to other sites, and will not open comments on some stories for legal reasons.

The following behaviour may result in commenters being suspended or banned:

- Infringements of the copyright, trademarks or other intellectual property rights of any person or organisation Defamatory statements. Threats will not be tolerated.
- Statements which degrade others on the basis of gender, race, class, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or other classification Obscene, pornographic, sexually explicit, or vulgar comments.
- Statements which appear predatory, hateful, or intimidate or harass, or name-calling.
- Statements which contain or advocate illegal or violent acts.
- Including personal information in your comment such as addresses, phone numbers, workplaces.
- Any violation of state, national, or international law.
- Spam, advertising, a promotion or any solicitation of any kind.
- Pretending you are someone else or pretending you are not connected to the article in any way.

So, if we believe you are violating these commenting guidelines, we may send you a notification that you have either been suspended from commenting for a certain period of time or have been banned from commenting for the foreseeable future.

We do our best to ensure fairness, but in all cases we reserve the right to suspend and/or ban accounts without notice, for any reason, but particularly to protect our services, our Members and our readers and community. We are obliged to delete any comment if it breaches our guidelines or for any other reason. We reserve the right to enforce these commenting guidelines at our discretion.