

Swellnet's Editorial Code of Conduct (updated August 2018)

1. Accuracy

1. Facts must be reported impartially, accurately, and with integrity.
2. Clear distinction must be made between fact, conjecture, comment, and where applicable, advertorial (see point 10)
3. Always try to tell all sides of the story.
4. Do not knowingly withhold or suppress essential facts.
5. Swellnet should not rely on only one source. Also, be careful not to recycle an error from one reference source to another.
6. Direct quotations should not be altered except to delete offensive language, protect against defamation, or to make minor changes for clarity.

2. Mistakes

1. Serious factual errors should be admitted and corrected at the first opportunity, subject to legal advice where appropriate.
2. Acknowledgement of a correction should be included at footer of updated article.
3. No employee or contributor is allowed to commit the company to an admission of error, correction, or apology without first referring to the editor.

3. Misrepresentation

1. Do not use false names.
2. Do not try to get information or photographs by deception.

4. Privacy

1. All individuals, including public figures, have a right to privacy. Swellnet has no general right to report the private behaviour of public figures unless public interest issues arise.
2. Unless it is in the public interest to do so, do not identify the family or friends of people accused of, or convicted of, a crime.

5. Confidential sources

1. The sources of information must be identified, wherever possible. When a source insists on anonymity, verification of the information offered must be sought from other, preferably attributable, sources.
2. A promise of confidentiality to a source must be honoured. However, journalists must be aware of the possible legal consequences.

6. Children

1. For legal reasons, children under the age of 18 must not normally be photographed or interviewed unless a parent or guardian is present or gives permission prior to publication.
2. Children must not be interviewed about their parents or siblings unless a parent or other legally responsible adult is present and has granted permission.

7. Suicide

1. Do not reveal graphic details of a suspected suicide. Avoid making judgments about the method of death which might suggest suicide is an acceptable means of resolving problems, particularly among young people.
2. Always include in such articles the contact number of support groups where people with problems may seek help.

8. Illegal drugs

1. Do not suggest that illegal drug use or the misuse of illegal drugs is an acceptable means of resolving problems.

9. Personal gain

1. Employees of Swellnet must not request or accept any money, travel, goods, discounts, entertainment or inducements of any kind outside the normal scope of business hospitality.
2. Bribes are to be rejected promptly and the editor informed.
3. Only the editor or publisher is authorised to accept offers of gifts on behalf of companies/organisations.
4. The editor has the absolute right to decide whether to accept an offer, who should be assigned and whether a report is published as a consequence. Further, these conditions must be made clear to whoever made the offer.

10. Advertising

1. Editorial material created as a condition of placing an advertisement (i.e. for favourable consideration) must carry a clear label at the top of the page, or directly above an isolated item: "advertisement", "advertorial" or "advertising feature".

11. Community Forums - Code of Conduct (reprinted from our public forum page)

<https://www.swellnet.com/forums/code-conduct/37586>

These rules are intended to ensure that everyone gets equal chance to participate on the Swellnet forums. These rules may change without notice. Check this page for changes.

If you break a rule, we'll usually just issue a friendly reminder. If you repeatedly cause trouble we might decide to remove your ability to comment. That might be temporary or permanent. We'll handle each problem on an individual basis.

Code of Conduct

- Use common sense. Have respect, don't break the law, don't do anything that could get the website hauled before the courts. If it's defamation in real life, it's also defamation here.
- Don't create social chaos. If we ask you to cut out some shit you're doing, do as we say.
- You mustn't post anything that violates the laws of Australia.
- Don't post any commercial spam.
- No self promotion of your personal website anywhere except your profile (you may put your website url in your profile) or in the context of a discussion.
- No personal attacks against other users. Make your point without making things personal or insulting other people, even people who don't visit this website (see Point 1).
- All users are entitled to their anonymity. If you know someone's ID don't share it unless you have their permission.
- Don't expose sensitive waves by identifying them in words or photos. Everyone has a different idea of what constitutes a secret spot so please be conscious of that and err on the side of caution.
- Don't accuse Swellnet moderators of having an ulterior agenda. Our only agenda is to maintain the best surf site experience that we possibly can.
- Swellnet is a small business, so the office isn't staffed 24/7. If we encounter any problems, we'll try to respond to them as soon as possible but bear in mind that we don't spend all day watching the forums. However if you need to contact us urgently, send an email to forums@swellnet.com.au and we'll do our best.

We want you to enjoy the site. You're welcome to express your opinions within the website's Code of Conduct.

Note: If we ask you to leave and you continue to use the forums or register new accounts, you may be breaking the law.

Note: Illegal activity will be reported.