**CODE OF CONDUCT (COC)--Adopted March 25, 2013**

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**CODE OF CONDUCT**

of the

**American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc.**

(adopted March 25,2013)

**Introduction:**

This Code of Conduct has been developed to spell out the American **Polish Lowland**

**Sheepdog Association, Inc.** expectations for all those taking part in or attending

meeting or events under its jurisdiction, or any place the association is represented,

along with general guidelines on the use of social media.

**Why do we need this Code?**

We are all under intense scrutiny in terms of the pedigree dog world and dog breeding.

The advice and guidance offered in this document are not meant to penalize or cause

difficulty but are there for the protection of all of us and particularly the dog – unity and

co-operation is therefore vital.

**What we expect from you:**

All members should conduct themselves in a professional, polite, and congenial manner

any APLSA meeting and/or gathering. Behavior reported as inappropriate may be

referred to the Discipline Committee for disciplinary action under Article VI of the

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., Constitution and Bylaws.

The APLSA expects all members to conduct themselves in a responsible manner and to

ensure that their dogs are properly taken care of throughout the period of any event and

do not become a nuisance to other dogs or to other attendees. Below are expectations

which should be followed. These are not exhaustive and should be read in conjunction

with relevant regulations as listed in the APLSA Code of Ethics. A breach of these

provisions may be referred to the Discipline Committee for disciplinary action under

Article VI of the American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Association, Inc., Constitution and

By Laws.

**People:**

• **Conduct** - participants have a duty both to their dogs and to others to make events

friendly and welcoming, and are expected to be co-operative and above all create a

safe environment for all to enjoy their time at events.

**• Sportsmanship**--participants should conduct themselves at all times in an

appropriate fashion and should display good manners and respect towards other

participants, show officials and to the judges, as well as toward other spectators

present.

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•**Judge Communication**-- Any verbal communication with a judge should take

place after judging has taken place and must be conducted in a polite and

professional manner.

**Code of Conduct:**

1. Personal attacks, swearing, and being out of order or other abusive behavior

towards another member during any APLSA meeting is simply not acceptable.

2. Abusive or aggressive behavior towards anyone at the show or any event – including

the judge, spectators, other participants, show management or other officials – will

not be tolerated under any circumstances (further information appears later in this

publication regarding harassment).

3. Do not interfere with any dog while it is being judged.

4. Mobile phones should be silenced while exhibiting or while a dog is under test.

5. If you have children, do not allow them to touch any dogs unless you have the

permission of the owner for them to do so. Be aware of where your children are, and

what they are doing, at all times. Take special care around benching areas where

dogs may react to an unexpected approach.

**Dogs:**

1. All dogs must adhere to the rules of events.

2. Owners must be in complete control of their dog at all times.

3. Dogs must never be left unattended.

4. Proper care of the dog(s) should be undertaken for weather conditions at all times.

**Harassment:**

**A Zero Tolerance Approach:**

No-one should be subject to intimidation or made to feel alarmed or distressed or put in

fear of reprisal. Harassment is a criminal offense. To that end the APLSA adopts a

zero tolerance towards all type of harassment activity. Harassment may be defined as

causing alarm, distress and anxiety and fear of physical violence or other threat,

offensive statements, verbal abuse and threats.

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Conduct may include speech, obstruction and so on. As such conduct may involve a

criminal offense the police may be involved and it may be that the APLSA will defer any

action pending the outcome of such investigation and/or prosecution.

It goes without saying that the APLSA expects courtesy and co-operation to be shown

towards all staff and organizers at any event. While the pressures and tensions which

arise at the competitive level are understood, any aggression or abuse towards those

who are simply undertaking their jobs for the benefit and interest of the

exhibitor/competitor and the audience and, ultimately the dog itself, cannot be tolerated.

**Use of Social Media:**

**Overview:**

The rapid growth of social media technologies combined with their ease of use and

pervasiveness make them attractive channels of communication. However, these tools

also hold the possibility of a host of unintended consequences. To help you identify and

avoid potential issues we have provided some examples of best practices which are

intended to help you understand, from a wide range of perspectives, the implications of

participation in social media.

**General Guidelines:**

**Maintain Privacy**

Do not post confidential or proprietary information. Do not discuss a situation involving

named or pictured individuals on a social media site without their permission. As a

guideline, do not post anything that you would not present in any public forum. Ask

yourself, would I want to see this published in the newspaper or posted on a billboard

tomorrow or ten years from now?

**Does it Pass the Publicity Test**

If the content of your message would not be acceptable for face-to-face conversation,

over the telephone, or in another medium, it will not be acceptable for a social

networking site.

**Think Before You Post**

There’s no such thing as a “private” social media site. Search engines can turn up

posts and pictures years after the publication date. Comments can be forwarded or

copied. Archival systems save information even if you delete a post. If you feel angry

or passionate about a subject, it’s wise to delay posting until you are calm and clearheaded.

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**Understand Your Personal Responsibility**

You are personally responsible for the content you publish on blogs or any other form of

user-generated content. Be mindful that what you publish will be public for a long

time—protect your privacy.

**Use of Social Media:**

**Be Aware of Liability**

You are responsible for what you post on your own site and on the sites of others.

Individual bloggers have been held liable for commentary deemed to be copyright

infringement, defamatory, proprietary, libelous, or obscene (as defined by the courts).

Be sure that what you post today will not come back to haunt you.

**Be Accurate**

Make sure that you have all the facts before you post. It’s better to verify information

with a source first than to have to post a correction or retraction later.

**Correct Mistakes**

If you make a mistake, admit it. Be upfront and be quick with your correction. If you’re

posting to a blog or any e-list you may choose to modify an earlier post — just make it

clear that you have done so.

**Respect Others**

You are more likely to achieve your goals or sway others to your beliefs if you are

constructive and respectful while discussing a bad experience or disagreeing with a

concept or person.

**Respect Your Audience**

Don’t use personal insults, obscenity; also show proper consideration for others’ privacy

and for topics that may be considered sensitive. Users are free to discuss topics and

disagree with one another, but be respectful of others’ opinions. You are more likely to

achieve your goals if you are constructive and respectful while discussing a bad

experience or disagreeing with a concept or person.

**Take the High Ground**

Remember that you’re most likely to build a high-quality following if you discuss ideas

and situations civilly. Don’t pick fights online. Don’t pick fights anywhere. Just walk

away.

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