BACK OUR OFFICIALS

Dealing with aggression, intimidation and online abuse

Officials keep motorsport running. Abuse over decisions, threats or online targeting can affect safety, confidence and mental health. You deserve a safe place to officiate.

NOTICE THE WARNING LIGHTS

- Shouting, swearing or threats after a decision
- Being followed, cornered or confronted
- Repeated abusive messages or public targeting
- Dreading events, poor sleep or feeling unsafe

TAKE A PIT STOP - FIVE THINGS TO DO

1. Put safety first. Move to a secure area; contact event control, security or police if needed.
2. Do not argue or investigate alone. Ask another official or supervisor to stay with you.
3. Record facts promptly: time, location, words, witnesses, footage and any online evidence.
4. Report through the event chain of command, using the event incident or welfare process.
5. Ask for a safety plan, a break or relief from duties if your concentration is affected.

WHO TO CONTACT AT THE EVENT

EVENT CONTROL / SENIOR OFFICIAL

Notify your supervisor, chief official, Clerk of Course or event director, as applicable.

SECURITY / POLICE

For immediate safety concerns, seek venue security. Threats or assaults may require police.

IF THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT

Get to safety, alert event control and call 000 for immediate danger. Do not return to duty until safe.

BACK YOUR OFFICIALS

IF A FELLOW OFFICIAL IS BEING TARGETED

Abuse is not simply part of the job. Listen without judgement and help make the next event safer.

1 CHECK

"Are you safe? Do you want me to come with you to report this?"

2 SUPPORT

Move away from confrontation. Listen, avoid blame and offer a break from duty.

3 FOLLOW UP

Agree on next steps, a named contact and a check-in after the event.

FOR CLUBS, ORGANISERS AND OFFICIALS LEADERS

ACT: Separate people where needed, address immediate risks and offer a private place to report.

DOCUMENT: Preserve incident reports, witness accounts and available footage. Use a fair and confidential process.

PREVENT: Explain behaviour expectations, support escalation beyond the immediate supervisor and check retaliation risks.

IF THE ABUSE CONTINUES

Trackside: escalate through the organiser, officials manager, stewards or relevant governing body according to the event rules. Request written follow-up.

Online: save screenshots and links, report the content to the platform and check whether eSafety can assist at esafety.gov.au.

Threats, stalking or assault: contact police. Your safety and welfare matter even when a formal complaint is ongoing.

ONE CONVERSATION CAN CHANGE THE OUTCOME

Lifeline 13 11 14 (24/7) | Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636 | Emergency 000

Talk to a trusted colleague or GP. Support is available before things reach crisis point.