



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of this Social Media Policy, the policy will encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and any other social media network that allows users to communicate online as well as other forms of electronic communication. The policy will be applicable to all members of the OFA including Directors, Teams, OFA members, officials, fencers' family members and supporters.

The OFA recognizes and appreciates the value of social media and the importance of social networking to all of its members. The OFA also respects the right of all Teams and Association personnel to express their views publicly. At the same time we must be aware of the dangers social media can present.

The purpose of this policy is to create awareness on the risks of social media and to ensure all Teams and Association personnel are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the Ontario Fencing Association.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- a) The Ontario Fencing Association holds the entire OFA Community who participates in social media to the same standards as it does for all other forms of media including radio, television and print.
- b) Comments or remarks of an inappropriate nature which are detrimental to a Team, the Association, or an individual will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- c) It should be recognized that social media and comments are on the record and can be instantly published and available to the public and media. Everyone including the board of directors, members, corporate partners, and the media can review social media communications. You should conduct yourself in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.
- d) Refrain from divulging confidential information of a personal or team related nature. Avoid revealing business or game strategy that could provide another team or individual a competitive advantage. Furthermore, do not discuss injury information about any player. Only divulge information that is considered public.
- e) Use your best judgment at all times – pause before posting or sending. Once your comments are posted or sent, they cannot be retracted. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for your comments.



- f) If requested to participate in an online network, as a direct result of your affiliation with or participation in the OFA, the OFA recommends that you request approval from the Association.
- g) Please refrain from reporting, speculating, discussing or giving any opinions on the OFA topics that could be considered sensitive, confidential or disparaging.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLATIONS

The following are examples of conduct through social media and networking mediums that are considered violations of the OFA Social Media Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Ontario Fencing Association.

- a) Any statement deemed to be publicly critical of Association officials or detrimental to the welfare of a member, Team, the Association or an individual.
- b) Divulging confidential information that may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - fencer injuries,
 - fencing strategies, or
 - any other matter of a sensitive nature to a member, Team, the Association or an individual.
- c) Negative or derogatory comments about any of the Ontario Fencing Association.
- d) Any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation or threats against fencers or officials.
- e) Photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior, including but not limited to:
 - drug use,
 - alcohol abuse,
 - hazing,
 - sexual exploitation, etc.
- g) Online activity that contradicts the current policies of the OFA or any of its member Associations.
- h) Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with the OFA policies and regulations on these matters.
- i) Online activity that is meant to alarm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.



4. DISCIPLINE

The Ontario Fencing Association will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy. If the investigation determines that a violation has occurred, the OFA will impose an appropriate suspension. Any appeal of the suspension will be dealt with by the OFA Complaints and Disciplinary Committee.

5. SUMMARY

When using social media, the OFA members should assume at all times they are representing the Ontario Fencing Association. All members of the OFA community should remember to use the same discretion with social media as they do with other traditional forms of media. Should the identity or image of any member of the OFA community be used in social media without the Individual, Team or Association's authorization, this is considered to be identity theft. Please notify the OFA (info@fencingontario.ca) immediately. Any use of a fencer or team member's image or likeness without the written consent of the OFA is strictly prohibited.

If you have any doubt about posting content on these social media sites, please consult with the OFA (info@fencingontario.ca). Due to the evolving nature of social media, the policies and guidelines are subject to revision by the association's Board. We also welcome feedback from the members.

Recommended for approval:

Lucie Hamelin, President
Ontario Fencing Association

Date

Approved by the OFA Board of Directors on _____