



OGHA Social Networking Policy

1. Statement of Purpose

- 1.1. The Ottawa Girls Hockey Association (OGHA) recognizes the value of social media and online communication as tools for engagement, promotion, and community building. This policy establishes clear expectations for responsible, respectful, and safe use of social media by all OGHA members.
- 1.2. This policy applies to all online activity where individuals may be perceived to represent OGHA, its teams, or its members.

2. General

- 2.1. This policy applies to all OGHA participants, including but not limited to: players, Coaches, Bench Staff, Team Managers, Team Trainers, Parents/Guardians, officials and affiliated members.
- 2.2. All OGHA players and ice/bench personnel are registered with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), are members of Hockey Canada (HC) and are bound by OWHA, HC and OGHA rules, regulations, policies and procedures. As such, OGHA supports and adopts the Social Networking Policy put forward by the OWHA and Hockey Canada to educate and advise OGHA members about the importance of responsible online communication.
- 2.3. The OGHA is fully aware of the importance and benefits of social media. It presents unique opportunities for networking and promotion but also provides an unsupervised medium for inappropriate conduct to occur; conduct which can be detrimental to the welfare of OGHA and its members.

3. Definition

- 3.1. Social Media and social networking are defined by the OWHA as communicating through on-line communities of people such as, but not limited to, TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), You Tube and other video platforms, Messaging apps (eg: Snapchat, WhatsApp, etc.), blogs, forums and discussion boards.

4. Applicability

- 4.1. The OGHA holds all its personnel, including Executive members, coaches, trainers, managers, players, volunteers, officials, partners (parents, guardians) and others who participate in social networking to the same standards as it would with all forms of media, including television, radio and print. All OGHA Personnel must use discretion, good judgment and be respectful when using social media as they represent the OGHA.
 - 4.1.1. The OGHA expects that all who participate in social media on behalf of the OGHA comply with the relevant terms of service when using the social media services (e.g. age of use).
- 4.2. **Zero-Tolerance:** Once published online, comments are on record and cannot be retracted. All OGHA members are accountable for their comments. Inappropriate behaviour over social networking media will not be tolerated and may result in



disciplinary action being taken by the OGHA and OWHA as per a recent OWHA communique, any instance of cyberbullying is akin to “an intent to emotionally injure” which will automatically be assessed the equivalent of a Match Penalty, i.e. four (4) game suspension. Any further acts of cyberbullying will see result in a player being “de-rostered” by the OGHA.

4.3. Inappropriate use of social networking includes, but is not limited to:

- 4.3.1. Statements that are demeaning to OWHA volunteers, its programs, on-ice or off-ice officials, players, members, coaches, sponsors or any other person associated with OGHA;
- 4.3.2. Communication of confidential information that may include medical history, family situations, game plans or strategies and other information that is deemed confidential;
- 4.3.3. Sharing of photos, videos or comments that promote negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to: physical violence, drug/alcohol use, etc.; and
- 4.3.4. Sharing/posting of negative videos or commentary about opposing teams, coaches, players and/or the referees;
- 4.3.5. Posting of inappropriate, derogatory, racist or sexist comments of any kind that contradict the policies of the OGHA, ODWHA and OWHA.
- 4.3.6. Cyberbullying, harassment, or intimidation of any kind.

5. Accountability and Discipline

5.1. All members are accountable for their online behaviour and inappropriate conduct may result in disciplinary action by OGHA and/or OWHA.

5.2. Disciplinary actions may include:

- 5.2.1. Warnings or mandatory education;
- 5.2.2. Suspension from team or OGHA activities;
- 5.2.3. Removal from team (de-rostering); and
- 5.2.4. Additional sanctions as per OWHA regulations.

5.3. Cyberbullying and severe misconduct may be treated as major infractions, consistent with OWHA disciplinary standards.

5.4. Reporting and Enforcement

5.4.1. All members share responsibility for maintaining a safe and respectful environment. Any concerns or violations must be reported immediately to:

- 5.4.1.1. OGHA President
- 5.4.1.2. Vice-President, Hockey Operations

5.4.2. Reports will be handled confidentially and investigated



appropriately.

5.4.3. If required, Ottawa Police Services (OPS) will be contacted if required to investigate matters that are/may be deemed criminal in nature.

6. Obligations

6.1. It is mandatory that all OGHA coaches educate their players and their families at the earliest opportunity. Any OGHA member is responsible to immediately report any inappropriate use of social media network to the President (president@ogha.info) and the Vice-President, (vp@ogha.info).