

PMBA Social Media & Public Conduct Policy

Approved by PMBA Executive: January 15, 2026

Applies to all Players, Parents/Guardians, Coaches, and Executive Members

Purpose

This policy outlines appropriate use of social media and public communication platforms in relation to Ponoka Minor Ball Association (PMBA). Its purpose is to protect the reputation of the association, maintain a respectful community, and ensure that concerns are handled through the proper channels.

1. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All posts, messages, or comments made **online or in public forums** referencing PMBA, its players, teams, volunteers, umpires, coaches, or executive.
- **Social media platforms** (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat), **group chats**, public messaging boards, **media interviews**, and **podcasts**.

2. General Expectations

All participants are expected to:

- Represent PMBA in a positive, respectful, and professional manner both online and offline.
- Refrain from posting or sharing:
 - Negative, hostile, or defamatory comments about players, coaches, umpires, or executive members,
 - Sensitive or private team matters (e.g., attendance issues, roster disputes, disciplinary actions),
 - Photos, videos, or names of other players without consent.

Violations of this policy may also trigger review under the PMBA Player, Parent, Coach, or Executive Code of Conduct, or the PMBA Discipline & Complaints Policy.

3. Coaches and Executive-Specific Expectations

In addition to the general expectations, PMBA coaches and executive members must:

- Avoid engaging in public debate or defending team decisions in online spaces.
- Use PMBA communication channels (e.g., email or direct messages) to address concerns, not personal profiles.
- Maintain confidentiality of internal matters discussed at executive or team meetings.
- Set an example for respectful digital conduct at all times.

4. Handling Online Concerns or Misconduct

- Concerns about PMBA-related posts or public conduct may be submitted through the **PMBA Discipline & Complaints Policy**.
- PMBA reserves the right to:
 - **Request removal** of inappropriate content,
 - **Issue a warning** or initiate formal discipline in accordance with the Player, Coach, or Executive Discipline Policy.
 - Disciplinary decisions will be made in alignment with the relevant PMBA policy (e.g., Player, Coach, Executive, or Parent Discipline Policy).
- PMBA may also submit reports to social media platforms for violations of their terms of service.

5. Media Interaction

Any official statements made on behalf of PMBA to media outlets (including local news, radio, or podcasts) must be:

- **Pre-approved by the PMBA President or VP**, or
- Made by a designated spokesperson or executive member.

6. Consequences of Policy Violation

Depending on the nature of the violation, consequences may include:

- A written warning or required removal of posts,
- Temporary or permanent suspension from coaching or team activities,
- Suspension or removal from the executive board (as per the bylaws),
- Referral to Baseball Alberta if the conduct breaches broader standards of safe sport or respectful behaviour.

7. Reporting Violations

Concerns about social media or public conduct can be submitted in writing through the PMBA Discipline & Complaints Policy. Please include a screenshot or link, if available. Anonymous complaints will be reviewed at the discretion of the executive.