



Social Media & Networking Policy

1. Introduction

With regards to this Social Media and Networking Policy, it will include, but not be limited to, public communications such as Twitter, Facebook, Myspace, LinkedIn, Foursquare and any other media networks that allow users to communicate online. This will also include public and electronic communications such as, but not limited to, IM, texting, Facetime.

The policy will apply to all members of Provost Minor Ball Association, including executives, coaches, players, parents, family members, officials, and general public supporters. The value of Social media and networking when properly managed can have a great value to all its invested parties. Provost Minor Ball Association also respects the rights of the teams and personnel involved to express their views publicly, however at the same time we must all be aware of the dangers that can be presented with this communication.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Provost Minor Ball Association members and the invested community are educated on the risks involved. All conduct that is forthcoming to be deemed inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary actions by the team, Provost Minor Ball Association, League and or Alberta Baseball / Softball.

2. Social Media Guidelines

- i) Provost Minor Ball Association holds the entire ball community who engage in social media and networking to the same principles as it does for all other forms of media including radio, television and print.
- ii) Remarks and comments of an inappropriate nature that are derogative to any team, any individual or any ball association will **NOT** be tolerated and subject to the appropriate disciplinary action.
- iii) One should be aware that social media comments and texting are kept on record and can be published and made available to the public and media. Everyone from concerned parties to the public can review these communications so all personnel should be conducting themselves in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.
- iv) Never divulge confidential information regarding any personal or team related nature. Avoid revealing business or team strategies that could provide others any unfair advantage. Only share information that has been deemed public.
- v) One should use best judgement at all times, pause before commenting, posting or sending, as it is public once you make the remark, and cannot be retracted. You are solely responsible for your conduct, actions and words.
- vi) If requested to engage in an online network, as a direct involvement with Provost Minor Ball Association, it is recommended that you seek approval from the team involved or the Association.

3. Social Media Violations

The following are examples of communication and conduct that are in violation and subject to discipline, but are not restricted to these acts alone:

- i) Any statement or action to be seen as publicly harmful to the welfare of any teams, players, officials, associations or supporters.
- ii) Releasing personal or confidential information that may include, but is not limited to:
 - Player injuries
 - Game strategies

- iii) Comments of a negative or demeaning nature about or towards any teams, players, officials, associations or supporters.
- iv) Photographs, videos or comments of a criminal nature that include but are not limited to:
 - Drugs or Alcohol abuse or influence
 - Physical or Mental abuse
 - Hazing behavior
 - Sexual exploits or comments
 - Racial actions or comments
- v) Communication of any sort that is meant to alarm individuals or misrepresent truth or facts.
- vi) Any form of bullying, harassment, threat or intimidation of any teams, players, officials, associations or supporters.

4. Discipline Measure

Provost Minor Ball Association will investigate any reported violation(s) of this policy. Should it be determined that a violation has occurred, the appropriate parties will be informed such as authorities (police, parents or coaches) if deemed necessary. The executive committee will see to an appropriate warning, suspension or expulsion of any individual(s) found responsible.

Since violations may vary with regards to effect and seriousness, we must ensure that care is taken to not compound the situation and yet see to keep it from repeating. Different factors will be utilized in the investigation as well as the discipline taken such as

- Intent of violator
- Whether physical or mental harm is caused
- Circumstances involved such as retaliation
- Effect violation had upon recipient, their family, team, association or community
- If there is any past history of infractions
- Is remorse or empathy conveyed

As different disciplinary measures may be taken such as the following actions and a suggested response for the conduct, these are only a few of the possible outcomes.

- Threats, be it implied or direct, of any harm or endangerment will be met with immediate and indefinite suspension. This will then be reviewed by the PMBA Executives for investigation and punishment.
- Slander against any persons race, religion, sex or sexual orientation: immediate suspension, length of which to be determined by PMBA Executives
- Promoting someone to do themselves or others harm of any kind: immediate and indefinite suspension. This will then be reviewed by the PMBA Executives for investigation and punishment.
- Posting comments or pictures of an implied sexual nature of oneself or another: immediate and indefinite suspension. This will then be reviewed by PMBA Executives for investigation and punishment.

These are only a few examples of infractions, but it should be noted that if the committee deems necessary, a Parents behavior or actions can be cause for suspending their child. It should also be advised that if anything of a criminal nature be present then the Police and proper authorities will be advised.

5. Summary

With social media and networking, all members of Provost Minor Ball Association community should at all times consider the representations and consequences of Provost Minor Ball Association. Please maintain a proper form of discretion with any form of communication so that we may all enjoy a wonderful season of ball.



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Acknowledgement of Understanding

This acknowledgement form represents the understanding and receipt of the guidelines set forth in the Provost Minor Ball Associations Social Media & Networking Policy.

By signing this form all parties agree to have read and understood the policy. All persons agree to follow the guidelines set forth and accept the consequences should any violation occur.

Please complete and sign below in the appropriate area. All fields will be completed electronically and kept within PMBA electronic database for the appropriate season.

Coach: _____ **Date:** _____

Asst. Coach: _____ **Date:** _____

Manager: _____ **Date:** _____

Players Name: _____

Parent: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent: _____ **Date:** _____

NOTE: This form must be completed and uploaded to your ramp Registration, a separate form is required for each participating player. Upon entering your name, dating, and uploading to Ramp, this will be considered your acknowledgment and agreement to Provost Minor Ball Associations policy. All players must have completed registration packages in order to take to the diamond for insurance purposes.

**Thank you,
PMBA**