

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY/CODE OF CONDUCT***

- a) **Cell Phones, Cameras or any Recording devices are NOT permitted in dressings rooms during practices or games. Please leave in a safe place outside of the dressing rooms. (Team may have a bag or box to check phones at the door.) Team staff are permitted Cell Phones in case of emergency.**
- b) **Social media can be fun, helpful, and dangerous.**  
Comments, notes and photos posted on social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and on-line forums are usually constructive and positive. But negative comments and images, bullying, criticism, and sexist remarks can be dangerous and harmful to people's wellbeing and reputation and the image of the sport.
- c) **Do not use social media to be critical of teammates, coaches, officials, opponents, administrators, volunteers, or spectators.**  
Any comment you make on social media sites has the potential to be seen by millions of people. That is great if comments are positive. But it can also be extremely negative and harmful. Before you post a comment on social media ask yourself this: Would I want millions of people to read something negative about me?
- d) **Always assume the person you are talking / writing about will see what has been said / written.**  
Just because an online chat is between two people does not mean it will remain private and nobody else can see it. Social media is accessible to everyone. Even if the person you are discussing does not see it, someone else may. The result is **you** rather than the person you are ridiculing will be seen in a negative light.
- e) **Remember to show respect.**  
When using social media show the same respect and regard for people that you are expected to show when playing, officiating or attending a Ringette game.
- f) **When in doubt leave it out.**  
If you are unsure if what you are posting on social media is appropriate, then it is best not to post it. When in doubt leave it out.
- g) **Do not tolerate or condone poor social media behaviour or actions.**  
If you are aware of or observe poor social media behaviour or actions, do not accept it. There is no place for it in Ringette and it will not be condoned. You should remind people of their responsibilities when using social media and warn that action can be taken against them. In the instance of members breaching the code of conduct report it to the team staff or division coordinator.
- h) **Be aware that your actions on social media may have serious consequences.**  
Negative comments and images, bullying, criticism and sexist remarks do not only impact negatively on the people they are about. If you are found to have acted improperly on social media regarding a Ringette related matter, you are liable to disciplinary proceedings and may be required to face the grievance committee. A suspension from Ringette could be imposed.

SMRA is obligated to report any such matter to the RCMP.

**For the purpose of this Social Media Code of Conduct this will encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, LinkedIn, and ANY other social media network that allows users to communicate online as well as other forms of electronic communications, but not limited to, methods such as "texting". Serious breaches of the Social Media Code of Conduct will mean that the individual will be required to explain their behaviour to Strathmore Minor Ringette Association. It could also result in immediate suspension or expulsion from further association with SMRA.**

## ***SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY/CODE OF CONDUCT***

I have received a copy of the SMRA Social Media Code of Conduct and have read it thoroughly. I agree to abide by the SMRA Social Media Code of Conduct.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Witness \_\_\_\_\_

Strathmore Minor Ringette Association reserves the right to deal with any player, parent, coach and / or Board member not adhering to the SMRA Social Media Code of Conduct and administer appropriate problem resolution as determined by the SMRA appointed Grievance Committee who has the final authority on the disposition of all grievances and appeals.

### **Compliance**

By your signature, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to abide by this code. This acknowledgement on your behalf shall constitute your agreement to conduct yourself in accordance with the letter and the spirit of this code.

**This form must be signed and returned to Strathmore Minor Ringette Association.**