

SCSA SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

1. Your child is the number 1 priority in the triangular relationship between you, your child, and their coach. Keep this in mind every time you post online. Your child's wishes are most important, not yours.

Parents, do you realize how much you embarrass your child when you go off on his/her coach? At what expense? Your child's developmental process through athletics is something you need to keep in mind before voicing your concerns. Your **CHILD** is the priority in this relationship. Don't say or post anything that will adversely affect your child. Talk with your child before posting what you feel like you need to post. Does your child agree with what you think or feel about the situation? They are the priority, not you.

2. If you wouldn't say it in-person to the coach, with your child present, don't say it online.

People tend to say things behind the keyboard or phone that they would never say in person. Almost everybody is guilty of that at one time or another. Be responsible with what you say online about your child's coach, club, or team by using statements #1 and #2 as a guide. Would you post what you want to post right now if the coach, technical director, club volunteers, and your child were all standing there next to your computer?

3. Let yourself cool off for 24 hours after the game or "incident" before posting.

Most coaches ask parents not to address anything from a game for 24 hours. Don't approach your child's coach in the parking lot to question a call that was made, or to ask about playing time. Give the coach some time to get removed from the situation. Otherwise, emotions from the coach and/or you, the parent, can get out of hand. The same thing goes for your online management. Give yourself 24 hours before making that post about the game, the club, the coach, your child's playing time, etc. It is amazing how trivial some of those things will be the very next day, when emotions are removed. [See SCSA 24-Hour Cool Down Policy](#)

4. Ask yourself “What is my purpose in posting this?” before posting it. Does it serve your child well? Or is it serving your own interests?

Social Media allows you, the parent to say ANYTHING you want. It gives you a vehicle to “rant” if you would like. But what good will that do? It might get it off your chest and make YOU feel better, but remember, your child is most important here. Will it serve him/her well? Think about your purpose before you post. If your purpose in posting is simply to make another person look bad, or to get something off your chest, that is probably not in the best interest of your **CHILD**.

5. Remember that the child who is starting in front of your child is also a child.

Bemoaning your coach for playing time is very insulting of the child who is actually starting. Your child’s coach is probably a volunteer. He/she has probably given up much of their own time and is putting forth their best effort and knowledge to help your child. Please give them some credit.

6. Follow your organization’s policy about chain of command, even online.

The SCSA has a Code of Conduct as well as a Formal Complaints Policy that you can follow when you are unhappy with a situation. Follow these policies regarding communication with the coach, the proper chain of command, etc. even on Twitter and Facebook. A lot of damage can be done online to a person, even if the information is totally false. Once it is out of the bottle, it’s hard to get back in the bottle. Keep this in mind. Following the [SCSA Formal Complaints Policy](#) regarding communication will help keep you from ending up in a negative place.

7. Praise the strengths and efforts of your child’s team, not the weaknesses and deficits of your child’s opponents.

It is disheartening to see “adults” online talking negatively to children. Yes, children. Some adults simply should NOT be allowed to have Social Media accounts! Why would you ever make fun of a kid, or bully a kid online about a game? Does your life really lack so much meaning that you get satisfaction from talking down to a 16 year old? Keep things positive about your child’s team, period.

8. Don't troll your child's coach, teammates, or their opponents online.

Trolling is when you put things out there on Social Media to entice somebody. Posting something really vague about your emotions, or about what has happened during the course of the day is a form of trolling your kid's coach. Stay away from this.

**any commentary on social media that The Swift Current Soccer Association deems negative towards it's members (including the organization, volunteers, coaches, players, and other members) may result in disciplinary action by the SCSA Board of Directors for the individual involved.*