



Social Media Policy

Introduction

This policy has been developed to provide advice for teams, volunteers, members, parents and players to help make informed decisions about how they utilize the Internet and other electronic methods of communication.

As some online postings could conflict with the interests of the West Ottawa Ringette Association (WORA) and its Members, WORA has adopted the following Social Media Policy.

Any and all breaches of this policy may result in either a warning or possible disciplinary action.

Jurisdiction

This policy is applicable to the business, activities or events (including games, practices and social events) organized by the West Ottawa Ringette Association which includes all members and participants. Further, WORA and its Members are bound by the Social Media Policy set out by Ringette Ontario (found [here](#)).

Guidelines

It is everyone's responsibility to follow proper procedures both in the arena and on the web.

Coaches, volunteers and others in a position of trust in Ringette need to act responsibly, both on and off the ice, and this includes the use of electronic communications. Coaches and those in a position of responsibility must ensure they communicate responsibly.

Everyone using any social media platform should:

- Think twice before posting, once posted it cannot be retracted although it may be deleted.
- Maintain a positive social media presence. Negative behavior and comments reflect badly on you and could impact the reputation of the WORA.
- Write in the first person so that it is clear that you are expressing your personal opinions and not those of the WORA.
- Those players 17 years of age and younger should obtain permission from parents to post photographs and or names to social media sites.

Everyone using any social media platform shall NOT:

- Publish negative comments about WORA, other associations, teams, players or referees, and any controversial or potentially inflammatory subjects or incidents that may have occurred.
- Use harassing, hostile or derogatory language in any online communications. Please refer to RO Harassment & Bullying Policy found [here](#) for a more complete description.
- Be careful when responding to any inaccurate or negative comments about your association, team, player or anyone involved with your association. In order to avoid escalation do not engage in an open debate about these comments. Please contact Ringette Ontario for advice.
- Use copyrighted information without citations and links. When publishing either exact or paraphrased text, photos or videos, give credit to the author or publisher. Never use trademarks, slogans, logos ETC. without obtaining permission from the copyright owner.

Teams, players and volunteers

Many teams, players and volunteers create websites, including social media pages, on one of the many hosting sites. These sites can be very useful in announcing schedule changes, new practices, changes of arenas, cancellations due to weather, team scores, tournament wins, etc. Although many players seventeen (17) years of age and younger will have their own email address, all communications should also be sent to the parent's email.

- No adult should communicate one on one with a player seventeen (17) years of age or younger. Players seventeen (17) years of age or younger should be encouraged by their coaches and parents to inform an adult they trust if they receive any communications that make them feel uncomfortable or if anyone has told them not to tell anyone about a communication.

Coaches

A large percentage of Ringette Ontario coaches deal with children who are under 18 years of age. There are many coaches in training that are also under 18. Extra care must be taken with this age group to avoid even an appearance of improper conduct.

Unless a player/coach seventeen (17) years or younger is a direct relation, the coaches, managers and trainers should generally not:

- Accept anyone as a friend on social networking sites, or share their personal social web pages with anyone under 18
- Send personal messages of a non-Ringette nature to anyone under 18
- Engage in any personal conversations or social comments.

Any questions on the WORA social media policy or any incident related to it should be directed to the WORA Board of Directors.

Reviewed and revised Feb 2022.