



OGHA Social Networking Policy

1.1 Statement of Purpose

1.1.1 This policy covers any communications which use the Internet as a virtual medium

1.2 General

1.2.1 All OGHA players and ice/bench personnel are registered with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), are members of Hockey Canada (HC) and are bound by OWHA, HC and OGHA rules, regulations, policies and procedures. As such, OGHA supports and adopts the Social Networking Policy put forward by the OWHA and Hockey Canada to educate and advise OGHA members about the importance of responsible online communication.

1.2.2 The OGHA is fully aware of the importance and benefits of social media. It presents unique opportunities for networking and promotion but also provides an unsupervised medium for inappropriate conduct to occur; conduct which can be detrimental to the welfare of OGHA and its members.

1.3 Definition

1.3.1 Social Networking is defined by the OWHA as communicating through on-line communities of people such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, You Tube, Instagram, blogging, etc.

1.4 Applicability

1.4.1 The OGHA holds all its personnel, including Executive members, coaches, trainers, managers, players, volunteers, officials, partners (parents, guardians) and others who participate in social networking to the same standards as it would with all forms of media, including television, radio and print. All OGHA Personnel must use discretion, good judgment and be respectful when using social media as they represent the OGHA.

1.4.2 The OGHA expects that all who participate in social media on behalf of the OGHA comply with the relevant terms of service when using the social media services (e.g. age of use).

1.4.3 **Zero-Tolerance:** Once published online, comments are on record and cannot be retracted. All OGHA members are accountable for their comments. Inappropriate behaviour over social networking media will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action being taken by the OGHA and OWHA as per a recent OWHA communique, any instance of cyberbullying is akin to "an intent to emotionally injure" which will automatically be assessed the equivalent of a Match Penalty, i.e. four (4) game suspension. Any further acts of cyberbullying will see result in a player being "de-rostered" by the OGHA.

1.4.4 Inappropriate use of social networking includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Statements that are demeaning to OWHA volunteers, its programs, on-ice or off-ice officials, players, members, coaches, sponsors or any other person associated with OWHA;



- b. Communication of confidential information that may include medical history, family situations, game plans or strategies and other information that is deemed confidential;
- c. Sharing of photos, videos or comments that promote negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to: physical violence, drug/alcohol use, etc.; and
- d. Posting of inappropriate, derogatory, racist or sexist comments of any kind that contradict the policies of the OGHA, ODWHA and OWHA.

1.5 Obligations

- 1.5.1 It is mandatory that all OGHA coaches educate their players and their families at the earliest opportunity. Any OGHA member is responsible to immediately report any inappropriate use of social media network to the President (president@ogha.info) and the Vice-President, Hockey Operations (hockey@ogha.info).