

MANITOULIN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION: Social Media Policy

The policy below shall encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Foursquare, Instagram, Snapchat and any other social media network that allows users to communicate online. The Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association understands the importance of social media and social networking, however, social media also allows for inappropriate unsupervised conduct which may be detrimental to the welfare of the MMHA, and the future of MMHA players.

The purpose of this policy is to educate the membership of the Manitoulin Minor Hockey Association on the risks of social media and to ensure that all members are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action.

Social Media Guidelines

The MMHA holds the entire MMHA community, including Parents and Guardians, Executive Members, Managers, Coaches, Trainers, Players, Scouts, Support Staff, on/off-ice Officials, and others who participate in SOCIAL MEDIA and SOCIAL NETWORKING to the same standards as it would with all forms of media, including television, radio and print. Comments or remarks of an inappropriate nature which are detrimental to a Team, Association, League, the MMHA, or an individual will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action. It is important to remember that social media comments are on the record and are instantly published and available to the public and media. MMHA members should conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner at all times. Use your best judgement at all times – pause before posting. Use the “24 hour rule” if necessary. You are solely responsible for your comments once they are published. If requested to participate in an online network, as a direct result of your affiliation with or participation in the MMHA, it is recommended that you request approval from your Team or Local Minor Hockey Association.

MANITOULIN MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION Social Media Violations

The following are examples of conduct through social media that are considered to be violations of the social media and networking policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Team, Minor Hockey Association, League, and/or the NOHA.

- Any statement deemed to be publicly critical of association officials or detrimental to the welfare of a member of a team, association, league, or individual or the MMHA. Commenting on or publishing information that is confidential or in any way sensitive to a team, association, league, individual or the NOHA.
- Negative or derogatory comments about any team, association, league, MMHA staff, volunteers, programs, stakeholder, player or any MMHA member.
- Any form of bullying, harassment or threats against players or officials.
- Photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to: Drug use; Alcohol abuse; Public intoxication; Hazing; Sexual exploitation;
- Online activity that contradicts the current policies of Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), the NOHA, MMHA or any of its member associations.
- Inappropriate derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with NOHA policies and regulations on these matters.
- Online activity that is meant to harm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.

Discipline

The team, association, MMHA and/or NOHA will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy. If the investigation determines that a violation has occurred, the team, association, MMHA and/or NOHA will impose an appropriate suspension. Possible outcomes are as follows, and will be imposed as is deemed appropriate:

- offending party receives warning, advised to cease behavior, and/or
- offending party's permission to attend any MMHA functions removed and/or
- offending party and dependents banned from participation in all MMHA events

I have read and understand the above:

Parent/Guardian Name

Player Name

Date