

NGHA Social Networking Policy

Statement of Purpose This policy encompasses public communications through such Internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, You Tube, Instagram, blogging etc. All NGHA 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 NGHA rules, regulations, policies and procedures. As such, NGHA supports and adopts the Social Networking Policy put forward by the OWHA to educate and advise NGHA members about the importance of responsible online communication.

The NGHA understands and appreciates the importance of social networking. This immediate and public forum presents unique opportunities for networking and promotion. However, it also provides an unsupervised medium for inappropriate conduct to occur; conduct which can be detrimental to the welfare of NGHA and its members.

Definition 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.

General The NGHA holds all NGHA 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 NGHA Personnel must use discretion, good judgment and be respectful when using social media as they represent the NGHA.

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

Of note, that once published online, comments are on record and cannot be retracted. All NGHA personnel 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 NGHA.

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

- Statements that are demeaning to NGHA volunteers, its programs, on-ice or off-ice officials, players, members, coaches, sponsors or any other person associated with NGHA.
- Communication of confidential information that may include medical history, family situations, game plans or strategies and other information that is deemed confidential.

- Sharing of photos, videos or comments that promote negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to: physical violence, drug/alcohol use, etc.
- Posting of inappropriate, derogatory, racist or sexist comments of any kind that contradict the policies of the NGHA, ODWHA and OWHA.

All NGHA personnel are responsible to immediately report any inappropriate use of social media network to the Director of Policy, Risk and Safety.

Policy approved on: October 16, 2013