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EMHA Social Media Policy

The policy below shall encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, LinkedIn, Foursquare, Instagram, and any other social media network that allows users to communicate online.

The Espanola 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 EMHA, and the future of EMHA volunteers and players.

The purpose of this policy is to educate the membership of the Espanola 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 EMHA holds the entire EMHA community, including Executive Members, Managers, Coaches, Trainers, Players, on/off-ice Officials, Parents/Guardians 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 EMHA, 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. EMHA 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 EMHA, it is recommended that you request approval from your Team or 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, Espanola 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, individual, or the EMHA.
- Commenting on or publishing information that is confidential or in any way sensitive to a team, association, league, individual or the EMHA.
- Negative or derogatory comments about any team, association, league, EMHA staff, volunteers, programs, stakeholder, player or any EMHA 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:
 - o Drug use
 - o Alcohol abuse
 - o Public intoxication
 - o Hazing
 - o Sexual exploitation
- Online activity that contradicts the current policies of Hockey Canada, the Ontario Hockey Federation (OHF), the EMHA, or any of its member associations.
- Inappropriate derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with EMHA policies and regulations on these matters.
- Online activity that is meant to alarm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.

Discipline

The team, association, league and/or EMHA will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy. If the investigation determines that a violation has occurred, the team, association, and/or EMHA will impose an appropriate suspension.