

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

It is expected that all Members of Ringette BC use social media responsibly and respectfully. This includes public applications and media, but also private group chats and other types of media where players, volunteers, administrators and other members of the Ringette community may be impacted.

The following guidelines are intended to aid Members using Social Media to ensure that outcomes are beneficial to the sport and to other Members, and that they remain onside with the Social Media Policy.

BEST PRACTICES FOR ALL MEMBERS

All Ringette BC Members using social media should ensure that:

- a. They refrain from publishing any content that does not align with the core values of Ringette BC, the League and/or Club Associations or adhere to the Code of Conduct and Privacy Policy;
- b. Profiles and related content reflect a professional presentation to colleagues, members, volunteers, parents and players of all ages;
- c. Social media posts do not tag or otherwise provide contact information for minors. Given/first names should only be used to identify minors in posts;
- d. Social media is not used to voice concerns or grievances in respect to Ringette BC and its affiliated Leagues and Club Associations, or other ringette associations/organizations;
- e. They do not publish photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior, including but not limited to drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, or sexual exploitation;
- f. That principles of privacy, respect, integrity and sportsmanship are observed when posting; and
- g. Conduct is appropriate, professional and respectful at all times. Take time to consider what you are posting before it is too late!

BEST PRACTICES FOR LEAGUES AND CLUB ASSOCIATIONS

Local Leagues and Club Associations are responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites, social networks, message boards or blogs abide by the policies set forth by Ringette BC. Leagues and Club Associations will also assume responsibility for reviewing responses to their online posts and resolving any concerns that may result.

BEST PRACTICES FOR TEAMS

Teams may choose to set up their own social media “group” as a hosting site. These sites can be very useful in announcing games, League changes, practice times, tournament information, etc. When using social media teams / athletes should keep in mind that:

- h. At least one adult should have access to the site and be designated by the team to monitor the content;
- i. Although most players under the age of 18 do have personal email addresses, all official team communication from the Coaches and Managers should be sent to a parent/guardian email;
- j. No adult should communicate one on one with a player of minor age on any social media platform; and
- k. Players should be encouraged by coaches and parents to inform an adult they trust if they receive any communications that makes them feel uncomfortable.

BEST PRACTICES FOR COACHES, OFFICIALS, & OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Many volunteers deal with athletes under the age of 18. Extra care must be taken with this age group to eliminate the risks of misconduct; or perceived misconduct. Unless a player/official/coach who is 18 years old or younger is a *direct relation* to a member, all Coaches, Managers, Officials, Trainers, and Club Association volunteers should generally:

- l. Not accept anyone as a friend on social networking sites or share their personal social webpages with anyone under the age of 18;
- m. Not make contact with anyone outside of the ringette context via any social networking media;
- n. Not send personal messages of a non-ringette nature to anyone under 18;
- o. Not engage in any personal conversations or social comments;
- p. Seek permission from parents and athletes prior to posting pictures or videos publicly;
- q. Keep team selection decisions and other official team business off of social media;
- r. Never require athletes to join team or organizational social media platforms; and
- s. Ensure that personal devices that have photo-taking functions are not in a team dressing rooms.

BEST PRACTICES FOR ATHLETES

Athletes must understand that publicly accessible content posted to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. as well as private team “group chats”, are captured under Ringette BC’s Social Media policy. Athletes can expect that all media may be monitored by other Athletes, a Club Association, Coaches, parents, and others. Any negative content could therefore be subject to sanctions.

Athletes have signed a Code of Conduct and must be mindful to follow that Code when posting material and interacting with others through social media. Athletes should:

- a. Set privacy settings to restrict who can search for you and what private information other people can see;
- b. Do not feel pressure to join a fan page, follow a feed or person or be “friends” with anyone. Coaches, teammates, officials or opposing competitors may add you, but you are not required to do the same;
- c. Understand and abide by rule that cell phones and/or other recording devices are NOT permitted in dressing rooms; and
- d. Model appropriate behavior on social media befitting your status as an athlete, a ringette player, and a member of your Club association.