



Social Media Policy

Date Approved	Date of Last Review	Date of Last Revision
August 20, 2020	August 20, 2020	January 2024

Definitions

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
 - a) **Organizational Participant**- refers to all categories of members and/or registrants defined in the By-laws of Racquetball Ontario (the Organization), as well as all people employed by, contracted by, or engaged in activities with, the Organization, including, but not limited to, employees, contractors, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, managers, administrators, committee members, parents or guardians, spectators, and directors and officers;
 - b) “*Social media*” – The catch-all term that is applied broadly to new computer-mediated communication media such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Snapchat, and Twitter.

Preamble

2. Racquetball Ontario is aware that Organizational Participant interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media. Racquetball Ontario cautions Organizational Participants that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by Racquetball Ontario’s *Code of Conduct and Ethics* will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within Racquetball Ontario’s *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Application of this Policy

3. This Policy applies to all Organizational Participants.

Conduct and Behaviour

4. The following social media conduct may be considered a violation of the *Code of Conduct and Ethics*:
 - a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, harmful, disparaging, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a social medium that is directed at an Organizational Participant, at Racquetball Ontario, or at other individuals connected with Racquetball Ontario;
 - b) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on a social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, embarrassing, suggestive, provocative, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed

at an Organizational Participant, at Racquetball Ontario, or at other individuals connected with Racquetball Ontario;

- c) Creating or contributing to a Facebook group, webpage, Instagram account, Twitter feed, blog, or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about Racquetball Ontario, its stakeholders, or its reputation;
 - d) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Organizational Participant and another Organizational Participant (including a teammate, coach, opponent, volunteer, or official), where incidents of cyber-bullying and cyber-harassment can include but are not limited to the following conduct on any social medium, via text-message, or via email: regular insults, negative comments, vexatious behaviour, pranks or jokes, threats, posing as another person, spreading rumours or lies, or other harmful behaviour;
5. All conduct and behaviour occurring on social media may be subject to a report submitted pursuant to Racquetball Ontario's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.

Organizational Participants Responsibilities

- 6. Organizational Participants should be aware that their social media activity may be viewed by anyone including Racquetball Ontario.
- 7. The content of all electronic communication between Persons in Authority and athletes must be professional in tone and for communicating information related to team issues or activities.
- 8. No sexually explicit language or imagery or sexually oriented conversation is permitted where it is reasonable to believe such posts would be incorporated in Racquetball Ontario feeds.
- 9. If Racquetball Ontario unofficially engages with an Organizational Participant in social media (such as by retweeting a tweet or sharing a photo on Facebook) the Organizational Participant may, at any time, ask Racquetball Ontario to cease this engagement.
- 10. Persons in Authority (such as coaches, Directors and Officers) may only send personal texts, direct messages on social media or emails to junior athletes when necessary and only for communicating information related to team issues and activities (e.g., non-personal information).
- 11. When using social media, an Organizational Participant must model appropriate behaviour befitting the Individual's role and status in connection with Racquetball Ontario.
- 12. Removing content from social media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Organizational Participant from being subject to Racquetball Ontario's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.
- 13. An individual who believes that an Organizational Participant's social media activity on Racquetball Ontario's social media platforms or feeds may violate Racquetball Ontario's policies should report the matter to Racquetball Ontario in the manner outlined by Racquetball Ontario's *Discipline and Complaints Policy*.