

ONTARIO AMATEUR WRESTLING ASSOCIATION (OAWA)

SOCIAL MEDIA AND NETWORKING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of this Social Media and Networking Policy, the policy will encompass public communications through such internet mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and any other social media that allows users to communicate online. The policy also applies to use of Internet Forums and similar communication methods.

The policy will be applicable to all members of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association including Board members, Club Coaches and Volunteers, Athletes, and Officials.

The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association recognizes and appreciates the value of social media and the importance of social networking to all of its stakeholders. The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association also respects the right of all members and affiliates to express their views publicly. At the same time we must be aware of the potential issues that social media and networking can present.

The purpose of this policy is to educate the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association members on the risks of social media and to ensure all members and affiliates are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association Board of Directors. Blogs, social networks and Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are exciting communication channels for sharing positive wrestling experiences.

The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association supports participation and involvement with social media communities and will view comments/posts as public information. The following guidelines have been developed for you to follow when posting to a blog or some other form of social media.

General recommendations for members' use of Social Media:

- Think before you post
- Respect the members of which you are posting
- Be enthusiastic
- Do not post personal information
- Be accurate
- Posting inappropriate pictures can cause issues for you, your club and the organization
- Double check your privacy/security settings
- ClubTwitter/Facebook or other accounts should have the following disclaimer "Views expressed are my own and don't necessarily reflect that of The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association."

2. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

- a) The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association holds all members who participate in social media and networking to the same standards as it does for all other forms of communication and media including in-person, radio, television and print.
- b) Comments, remarks or posts of an inappropriate nature which are detrimental to a club, the Association or an individual are not acceptable.
- c) It should be recognized that social media and comments such as ‘texting ‘are on the record and can be instantly replicated and published. Everyone including Association and/or Club personnel, players, corporate partners and the media can review social media communications. You should conduct yourself in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.
- d) Use your best judgment at all times – pause before posting or sending. Once your comments are posted or sent they cannot be retracted. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for your comments.
- e) Any persons who are in the position of leadership and influence of minors will be held to a higher standard on ensuring that professionalism and appropriateness is maintained.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLATIONS

The following are examples of conduct through social media and networking mediums that are considered violations of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association Social Media and Networking Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association.

- a) Any statement deemed to be publicly critical of Association officials or detrimental to the welfare of a member Club, the Association or an individual.
- b) Divulging confidential information that may include, but is not limited to the following:
- player injuries;
 - match strategies;
 - any other matter of a sensitive nature to a member Team, the Association or an individual.
- c) Negative or derogatory comments about any of the Team, and/or Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association members or officials.
- d) Any form of bullying, harassment, intimidation or threats against others.
- e) Photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior, including but not limited to:
- drug use,
 - alcohol abuse,
 - public intoxication,
 - hazing or cyber bullying • sexual exploitation, etc.
- f) Online activity that contradicts the current policies of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association.
- g) Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, homophobic, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association policies and regulations on these matters.

h) Online activity that is meant to alarm other individuals or to misrepresent fact or truth.

4. DISCIPLINE

The Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy as violations of the Association Code of Conduct Policy. All procedures with respect to violations of the Code of Conduct (complaints, appeals, etc.) apply.

5. SUMMARY

When using social media and networking mediums, the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association members should assume at all times they are representing their Club and/or the Association. All members of the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Association should remember to use the same discretion with texting, etc., social media and networking as they do with other traditional forms of communication or when dealing with the media.