

ONTARIO GRAPPLING ASSOCIATION (OGA)

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

INTRODUCTION

For the purpose of this Social Media Policy, the policy will speak to public communications through such online mediums and websites as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, 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 Grappling Association including Board members, Club Coaches, Volunteers, Athletes, Promoters and Officials.

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

The purpose of this policy is to educate our members on the associated 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 Grappling Association Board of Directors.

Websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are a great way to promote our styles in a positive manner and highlight the athlete's abilities to many supporters, family, and friends.

The Ontario Grappling Association supports participation and involvement with social media communities and will view comments/posts as public information. The following guidelines have been developed to assist you in posting appropriately in a public forum:

- Respect the members of which you are posting
- Be enthusiastic
- Do not post personal information
- Be truthful
- Posting inappropriate pictures can cause serious consequences for you, your club, and the organization as whole
- Double check your privacy/security settings
- Club Twitter/Facebook or other accounts should have the following disclaimer “Views expressed are personal and don’t necessarily reflect that of The Ontario Grappling Association. (*OGA)

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

a) The Ontario Grappling Association holds all members who participate in social media 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 the Association, a club or an individual are not acceptable.

c) It should be recognized that social media comments are on record and can be instantly replicated and published. Everyone (including Association and/or Club personnel, members, corporate partners and the media) can review social media communications.

d) Use your best judgment at all times –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.

SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLATIONS

The following are examples of conduct through social media that are considered violations of the Ontario Grappling Association Social Media Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the Ontario Grappling Association *OGA.

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:

- athlete injuries;
- competition strategies;
- any other matter of a sensitive nature to a Club/Team, the Association or an individual.

c) Negative or derogatory comments about any of the Team/Club, and/or Ontario Grappling 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 Grappling Association.

g) Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, homophobic, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with the Ontario Grappling Association policies and regulations on these matters.

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

l) Online activity that contradicts the current policies set forth by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, Sport (MTCS) and/or the Ministry rules a PSO must follow.

DISCIPLINE

The Ontario Grappling Association will investigate any violation(s) of this policy that are reported as violations of the Association Code of Conduct Policy.

SUMMARY

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