



**MISSISSAUGA GIRLS SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION  
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY  
(Approved by Board at the February 18, 2015 Meeting)**

**DEFINITIONS**

1. The following terms have these meanings in this Policy:
  - a) *“Social media”* – The catch-all term that is applied broadly to computer-mediated communication media such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Forum and Twitter, etc.
  - b) *“Member”*- All categories of membership, players, coaches, umpires & parents defined in the Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with Mississauga Girls Softball Association, including but not limited to, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, team managers, team captains, medical and paramedical personnel, administrators, parents, spectators and employees.
  - c) *“Discipline Chair”* – The person or organization appointed by Mississauga Girls Softball Association to oversee management and administration of complaints.

**PREAMBLE**

2. Mississauga Girls Softball Association is aware that Member interaction and communication occurs frequently on Social Media. MGSA cautions Members that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour required by Mississauga Girls Softball Association Policy Relating to Member Conduct will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions identified within the Mississauga Girls Softball Association Policy Relating to Member Conduct.

**APPLICATION**

3. This Policy applies to all Members as defined in the Definitions.

**CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR**

4. Per the Mississauga Girls Softball Association policy relating to Member Code of Conduct, the following Social Media conduct may be considered minor or major infractions at the discretion of the Discipline Chair:
  - a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on any social media, including but not limited to a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Mississauga Girls Softball Association and related events.

- b) Posting a disparaging or harmful comment on any social media, including but not limited to personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Mississauga Girls Softball Association and related events.
  - c) Creating or contributing to social media, including but not limited to a Facebook group, webpage, blog, or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about Mississauga Girls Softball Association and related events.
  - d) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on any social media, including but not limited to Facebook, Tumblr, Twitter, YouTube, or other social medium that is harmful, disrespectful, insulting, or otherwise offensive, and that is directed at Members or at other persons connected with Mississauga Girls Softball and related events.
  - e) Any instance of cyber-bullying or cyber-harassment between one Member and another Member (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.
  - f) Any instance of bringing the game of softball into disrepute.
5. All conduct and behaviour occurring on Social Media may be subject to the Mississauga Girls Softball Association Policy Relating to Member Code of Conduct at the discretion of the Discipline Chair.

#### **MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- 6. Members must be aware that their Social Media use may be monitored by Mississauga Girls Softball Association or its Member Associations or local softball associations.
- 7. When using Social Media, a Member must model appropriate behaviour benefitting the Member's status as a member of Mississauga Girls Softball Association.
- 8. Removing content from Social Media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Member from being subject to the Mississauga Girls Softball Association Policy Relating to Member Code of Conduct.
- 9. A member who believes that the Social Media use by another member is inappropriate or may violate Mississauga Girls Softball Association policies and procedures should report the matter to Mississauga Girls Softball Association in the manner outlined by the Mississauga Girls Softball Association Policy Relating to Member Code of Conduct.