



The Whitby Girls Softball Association (WGSA) seeks to ensure a membership that is fair, positive, inclusive, and enjoyable experiences for all the children and adults involved. Participation in WGSA activities should be friendly and unifying -- a spirited social and instructional athletic occasion for players, coaches, umpires, and spectators.

WGSA Social Media Policy

The WGSA is aware that member interaction and communication occurs frequently on social media. WGSA cautions members that any conduct falling short of the standard of behaviour defined by WGSA codes of conduct will be subject to the disciplinary sanctions.

Definitions

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 email, blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Forum and Twitter, Tik Tok, etc.
- b. "Member" – All categories of membership, players, coaches, umpires, and parents defined in the Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with WGSA, including but not limited to, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, team managers, team captains, medical and paramedical personnel, administrators, parents, spectators, and umpires.
- c. "Discipline Chair" – The person or organization appointed by WGSA to oversee management and administration of complaints.

Conduct and Behaviour

The following Social Media conduct may be considered minor or major infractions at the discretion of the WGSA 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 WGSA 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 WGSA 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 WGSA 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 WGSA 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.
- g. Any illegal behaviour captured in written or photographic form that is prohibited by Municipal, Provincial or Federal Laws.

Member Responsibilities

- Members must be aware that their Social Media use may be monitored by WGSA or its member associations or local softball associations.
- When using social media, a member must model appropriate behaviour benefitting the member's status as a member of the WGSA.
- Removing content from social media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the member from being subject to the WGSA codes of conduct.
- A member who believes that the social media use by another member is inappropriate or may violate WGSA policies and procedures should report the matter to WGSA.
- All members expected to serve as positive ambassadors to the WGSA.