

Ontario Ball Hockey Federation (OBHF)

Social Media Policy

Effective Date: August 6th, 2026

1. Purpose

The OBHF is committed to promoting a positive, respectful and inclusive environment. Misuse of social media that damages the reputation of the OBHF, its members, volunteers, officials, leagues, sponsors or the sport of ball hockey will not be tolerated.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all players, parents/guardians, league operators, coaches, bench staff, officials, managers, volunteers, directors, committee members and anyone participating in or representing the OBHF.

2.1 Application of this Policy

This Policy applies to all social media activity, whether the content was created in the past, is currently published, or is posted in the future. The OBHF reserves the right to investigate and take disciplinary action regarding any social media content, regardless of when it was originally posted, if such content is determined to violate this Policy or brings the OBHF or the sport of ball hockey into disrepute.

Deleting or editing a post after a complaint has been made does not prevent the OBHF from investigating or imposing discipline where sufficient evidence exists.

3. Expected Standards

Participants are expected to act with honesty, integrity and respect, protect the reputation of the OBHF and the sport, and resolve disputes through established OBHF processes rather than social media.

4. Prohibited Conduct

Prohibited conduct includes defamatory, abusive, threatening, discriminatory or harassing posts, disclosure of confidential information, encouraging harassment, or publishing content intended to damage the reputation of the OBHF or the sport of ball hockey.

5. Discipline

Following an investigation and disciplinary review, the presumptive minimum sanction for a serious violation of this policy shall be a two (2) year suspension from all OBHF-sanctioned activities.

The timing of a social media post shall not limit the OBHF's authority to investigate or impose discipline. Historical, current and future social media content may all be considered when determining whether a violation has occurred.

Additional sanctions may include permanent suspension, removal from positions, loss of team or league privileges, financial penalties where permitted, or referral to law enforcement where appropriate.

6. Investigation and Due Process

The OBHF will review evidence, provide notice of the alleged violation, allow an opportunity to respond, and render a decision through the appropriate disciplinary authority. Interim suspensions

may be issued where necessary.

7. Freedom of Expression

The OBHF recognizes the right to express personal opinions. However, social media activity that damages the reputation of the Federation or the sport, or otherwise violates OBHF policies, may result in discipline.

8. Acknowledgement

Participation in any OBHF-sanctioned activity constitutes acceptance of this Social Media Policy.