

GRAND VALLEY LADIES SOFTBALL ASSOCIATION
SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY 2014

DEFINITIONS

- The following terms have these meanings in this policy:
 - “Social media: - The catch-all term that is applied broadly to computer-mediated communication media such as blogs, YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, Turnbir, Forum and Twitter, etc.
 - “Member” – All categories of membership defined in the Softball Ontario Bylaws, as well as all individuals employed by or engaged in activities with Softball Ontario, including but not limited to, athletes, coaches, officials, volunteers, directors, officers, team managers, team captains, parents, medical paramedical personnel, administrators and employees.
 - “Case Manager” – The person or organization appointed by Softball Ontario to oversee management and administration of complaints.

PREAMBLE

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

APPLICATION

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

CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOUR

- Per the GRAND VALLEY’s Policy Relating to Member Conduct, the following Social Media conduct may be considered minor or major infractions at the discretion of the Board/Disciplinary Committee:
 - a) Posting a disrespectful, hateful, insulting, or otherwise negative comment on a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at Members, players, team managers, coaches, or at other persons connected with GRAND VALLEY.

- b) Posting a disparaging or harmful comment on a personal blog, in a Facebook post or note, or as a Tweet on Twitter, that is directed at GRAND VALLEY members, players, parent, coach, team manager.
 - c) Creating or contributing to a Facebook group, webpage, blog or online forum devoted solely or in part to promoting negative or disparaging remarks or commentary about GRAND VALLEY members, players, parent, coach, team managers etc or related events.
 - d) Posting a picture, altered picture, or video on 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 connect with GRAND VALLEY 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.
- All conduct and behaviour occurring on Social Media may be subject to GRAND VALLEY's Policy Relating to Member Conduct at the discretion of the Board of Directors/Disciplinary Committee.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Members must be aware that their Social Media use may be monitored by GRAND VALLEY and Directors.
- When using Social Media, a Member must model appropriate behaviour benefitting the Member's status as a member of GRAND VALLEY.
- Removing content from Social Media after it has been posted (either publicly or privately) does not excuse the Member from being subject to the GRAND VALLEY Policy Relating to Member Conduct.
- A member who believes that the Social Media use by another member is inappropriate or may be in violation of GRAND VALLEY policies and procedures, should report the matter to GRAND VALLEY in the manner outlined by GRAND VALLEY Policy Relating to Member Conduct.