

Social Media Policy

ST. ALBANS SKATING ASSOCIATION

ADOPTED 9/14/2026

The St. Albans Skating Association (SASA) expects all players, parents, coaches, volunteers, and members to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner both in person and online. Social media activity that involves SASA, its teams, or its members reflects on the entire organization and must follow the same standards of conduct expected at the rink, at team events, and during all association activities.

This policy is intended to promote a positive environment consistent with the values of SASA, USA Hockey, and SafeSport.

1. Definition of Social Media

For the purpose of this policy, "social media" includes ANY current or future online, digital, electronic, or mobile platform used to create, post, share, transmit, discuss or exchange content or communication.

This policy applies to both public and private posts when they involve SASA, its members, or association activities, regardless of the device platform.

2. General Expectations

All members of SASA are expected to:

- Represent the association in a positive manner
- Show respect for players, coaches, officials, parents, and opponents
- Follow USA Hockey SafeSport and SASA conduct guidelines
- Remember that online behavior reflects on the entire association
- Demonstrate sportsmanship at all times

Participation in SASA is a privilege, and conduct on social media may be considered when evaluating behavior within the program.

3. Prohibited Social Media Conduct

The following is not permitted when related to SASA, its teams, or its members:

- Disrespectful, abusive, or threatening comments
- Posting photos or videos intended to embarrass, shame, or target a player
- Bullying, harassment, or intimidation
- Posting images of minors without permission from a parent/guardian
- Posting content involving alcohol, drugs, vaping, or illegal activity at team functions

3. Players

Players are expected to represent SASA with pride both on and off the ice.

Players must:

- Show sportsmanship online and in person
- Not post negative comments about teammates, coaches, or opponents
- ~~Not engage in online arguments related to hockey~~
- Follow SafeSport and SASA conduct rules at all times

When wearing the SASA jersey or identifying as a SASA player, athletes represent the entire association.

4. Coaches and Volunteers

Coaches and volunteers are held to a higher standard of conduct.

Coaches and volunteers must:

- Maintain professional communication at all times
- Follow USA Hockey SafeSport communication guidelines
- Avoid posting about player performance, discipline, or roster decisions
- Use approved team communication methods whenever possible

5. Official SASA Social Media Accounts

Only individuals authorized by the SASA Board of Directors may post on official association accounts.

Official accounts must:

- Promote SASA in a positive and professional manner
 - Protect player privacy
 - Avoid negative, political, or controversial content
 - Follow USA Hockey and SafeSport guidelines
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6. Reporting Concerns

Concerns regarding social media use should be reported to:

- Head Coach
- Program Director
- SafeSport Coordinator
- SASA Board of Directors

All reports will be reviewed confidentially.

7. Disciplinary Action

Violation of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to:

- Verbal or written warning
- Suspension from team or association activities
- Removal from team, coaching, or volunteer position
- Review by the SASA Discipline Committee

All discipline will follow SASA and USA Hockey guidelines.

8. Acknowledgment

Participation in the St. Albans Skating Association indicates agreement to follow this Social Media Policy.

Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action.