



## 1.0 Overview Section

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to inform WSHA members, players, and coaches on the acceptable use of social media and electronic/mobile devices, and to ensure all teams and Association Members are aware that conduct deemed to be inappropriate may be subject to disciplinary action by WSHA, WAHA, and/or USA Hockey.

The WSHA Social Media policy outlines appropriate use of social media regarding WSHA and its members. WSHA will not tolerate inappropriate use of social media by members, and therefore explains below potential disciplinary actions in response to any breach of policy.

### 1.2 Scope

This policy applies to all coaches, WSHA players and their guardians, as well as the family of WSHA players.

## 2.0 Definitions

Tools that allow individuals or groups to generate content and engage in peer-to-peer conversations and exchange of content (examples are YouTube, TeamSnap, SportsEngine, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Texting, TikTok, BeReal, etc.).

## 3.0 General Policy Statement

Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants.

### 3.1 Social Media | Mobile | Electronic Communication Policy

As part of WSHA, WAHA and USA Hockey's emphasis on participant safety, communications with our minor participants should be appropriate, as well as transparent. Recognizing that communication is made using mobile devices, web-based applications, and social media more than ever, it is necessary to define a policy so that these communications are not only productive but appropriate, while protecting our participants from inappropriate access from potential offenders.

- All electronic communications between coaches and/or team administrators and players must be for the purpose of communicating information about team or program activities. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text or social media communications sent directly to the player **MUST** also copy the player's parent/guardian.
- Because of concerns involving our minor participants being exposed on social media sites, WSHA and USA Hockey prohibit coaches from having players join their personal Facebook page or any other social media application. It is permissible to develop a "team page" that players and parents may "join" and can be used by coaches or team administrators to communicate to players through the site, as long as the information is team oriented and non-personal in nature.
- At any time, a parent may request, in writing, that their player not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches, team administrators, program representatives, or other adults in the program.
- Use your best judgment at all times – pause before posting. Ultimately, you are solely responsible for your comments and they are published for the public record.



## Title: Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy

- All players and family members are to refrain from participating in forums or blogs regarding any players, coaches or family members of the WSHA hockey team, or any other team for that matter.
- If requested to participate in an online network, as a direct result of your affiliation with or participation in West Salem Hockey Association, West Salem Hockey Association recommends that you request approval from the Team and the Association.
- At no time should any player, family member and/or member of WSHA post negative, derogatory, racist, sexist or inappropriate comments on any social media platform.
- Comments or remarks of an inappropriate nature which are detrimental to a Team, the Area Association, and/or an individual will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Players and/or family members may only post positive messages regarding the players, coaches or family members of the team on social websites such as Facebook, Instagram, etc.
- Any form of bullying, harassment or threats against players or officials is strictly prohibited.

### **3.2 Disciplinary Actions**

See Problem Solving and Grievance Policy.

West Salem Hockey Association Board will investigate reported violation(s) of this policy. If the investigation determines that a violation has occurred, WSHA will impose an appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities of the individual and/or family.

### **4.0 Document Information**

#### **4.1 Reference Documents**

Problem Solving and Grievance Policy

#### **4.2 Distribution**

Parents at time of registration. All WSHA members, as available on the association website.

**End of document.**