



Guelph Minor Football Association
100 Crimea St., Guelph, ON N1H 2Y6
E: info@guelphminorfootball.net
Website: guelphminorfootball.net

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Social Media Policy

This Social Media Policy encompasses public communications through **all platforms** that allow users to communicate online, including TeamLinkt. The policy is applicable to all Directors, Coaches, Volunteers, Players, Parents and their Families, hereafter "Stakeholders", of Guelph Minor Football. GMFA recognizes and appreciates the value of social media and the importance of social networking to all of its Stakeholders. The GMFA also respects the right of individuals to express their views publicly.

The purpose of this policy is to educate Stakeholders on the risks of social media and to set clear expectations regarding conduct deemed to be inappropriate and potentially subject to disciplinary action by GMFA.

1. SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

Anyone who participates in social media, with respect to GMFA events, is held to the same standards as all other forms of media including radio, television and print. Comments or remarks of an inappropriate nature which are detrimental to GMFA, our teams, our competition, our leagues or an individual will not be tolerated and will be subject to disciplinary action.

It must be recognized that social media is on the record and can be instantly published and available to the public including league officials, referees and other GMFA Stakeholders. As such, GMFA expects all of its Stakeholders to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner at all times.

Language

GMFA is proud to be an open and inclusive organization. GMFA Stakeholders will refrain from comments or behaviours, which are disrespectful, offensive, abusive, racist or sexist. In particular, behaviour, which constitutes harassment, abuse or bullying, will not be tolerated.

Be mindful of privacy/confidentiality

Stakeholders should always lean on the side of caution when sharing personal information of players, such as full names and contact information. We encourage our supporters to share photos and videos but be aware of the content being shared.

Respect

Any concerns or disputes involving GMFA personnel, a competing team, referee, or league official should **not** be dealt with online. Any references or examples of bullying, threats, drug abuse, exploitation and harassment will not be tolerated. Negative and derogatory comments involving any team, association, league, staff, volunteers, programs, players or any GMFA member are considered violations.

Retweets/shares could be considered endorsements

When sharing content created by a third party, you are endorsing that individual/organization as having a similar message or opinion, as yourself. Be mindful of the source you are sharing content from.

2. SOCIAL MEDIA VIOLATIONS

The following are examples of conduct through social media that are considered violations of the GMFA Social Media Policy and may be subject to disciplinary action by the team:



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- Divulging confidential information about GMFA Stakeholders, league officials or any individuals associated with competing teams or their club associations.
- Any statement deemed to be publicly critical or detrimental to the welfare of GMFA Stakeholders, our leagues, competing teams, referees, or league officials that may include, but is not limited to the following:
 - Negative or derogatory comments.
 - Bullying, harassment, intimidation or threats.
 - Photographs, video or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to:
 - Drug use,
 - Alcohol abuse,
 - Public intoxication,
 - Hazing
 - Sexual exploitation, etc.
 - Online activity that contradicts the current policies of GMFA,
 - Inappropriate, derogatory, racist, or sexist comments of any kind, in keeping with the GMFA Code of Conduct Policy.
 - Online activity that is meant to alarm others or to misrepresent fact or truth.

3. DISCIPLINE

All violations of this Policy will be addressed through the GMFA Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.

4. SUMMARY

When using social media for purposes related to youth football, Stakeholders should assume at all times they are representing GMFA and should remember to use discretion.