

OPST Social Media Policy

Purpose:

The purpose of this social media policy is to establish guidelines for the appropriate use of social media by Members, Swimmers, and Coaches of OPST. This policy aims to promote positive behavior, protect the well-being of participants, and maintain the integrity and reputation of the organization.

Definition of social media:

Social media is any form of online or web-based publication, forum or presence that allows interactive communication, including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, blogs, Youtube, group messaging, forums, blogs, and other social networking tools or content/photosharing sites used by people to whom these guidelines apply.

Guidelines:

1. Respect and Sportsmanship:

- Demonstrate respect and sportsmanship in all social media interactions.
- Avoid creating or engaging in disrespectful or inflammatory discussions, including comments directed towards other participants, coaches, officials, or opposing teams.

2. Confidentiality:

- Always begin with the assumption that anything you write or post can be read by anyone, anywhere, at any time and once it is published it is 'out there' and cannot be taken back.
- Respect the privacy of others and refrain from posting personal or private information without consent.

3. Positive Representation:

- When posting, show proper consideration for how your post will represent the team and affect other people.
- Refrain from posting content that could reflect negatively on the organization.
- Do not use social media to make negative or derogatory comments about issues or concerns that you or others have relating to the team. Such concerns should be expressed directly first to the Head Coach; then, if not satisfied, to the Board of Directors in writing.

4. Content Appropriateness:

- Do not post or share content that is inappropriate, offensive, discriminatory, or illegal.
- Exercise caution when sharing photos, videos, or comments to ensure they are appropriate for all audiences, including children and families.

5. Compliance with Policies and Regulations:

- Adhere to all applicable laws, regulations, and organizational policies when using social media.
- Refrain from engaging in activities that violate copyright or intellectual property rights.

6. Cyberbullying and Harassment:

- Cyberbullying, harassment, or any form of online abuse will not be tolerated.
- Report any instances of cyberbullying or harassment to the appropriate authorities or organization officials.

7. Parental Involvement:

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their children's social media activity and educate them about responsible online behavior.
- Parents should always lead by example.

Failure to comply may result in, but not necessarily be limited to, any of the following actions:

- Warnings
- Restriction from participating in some or all team activities (ie practice, meets, team functions, etc)
- Suspension or expulsion from the OPST, without refund.

The result will be handled on a case by case basis, may depend on the severity, and is at the discretion of the Head Coach & Board of Directors.