

Policy Title:	Social Media, Online and Mobile Device Policy	Pages: 2
Approved:	2019	Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club
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Purpose

As a club we are excited to promote who we are and highlight our successes. One method that the club, coaches, swimmers and members can do this is through using social media and mobile devices. We believe in open communication and encourage our club members to tell the work about our club and the sport of synchronized swimming through online and social networks.

We expect our members use social media, online technologies in a respectful and appropriate manner. Blog postings, texts, photos etc. shared on the Internet should be in keeping with the Club philosophy and values.

Scope and Application of this Policy

Any posts that members make must not discredit the club and its membership including swimmers, coaches, members and swimmer families.

Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club will not tolerate cyberbullying or cyberstalking:

- Cyberbullying involves the use of electronic information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, harassing, intimidating and hostile behaviour by an individual or group through personal attacks or other means of that harms others, whether intended or not.
- Cyberstalking involves the use of electronic information and communication technologies to communicate words, images, or language directed at or about a specific person causing substantial emotional distress to that person.
 - In order to encourage respectful communication and use of such things as group chats it is recommended that a coach be on the group chat.

Inappropriate and/or offensive behaviours concerning participation in online communities including Snapchat, online groups, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram may include depictions or presentation of the following:

- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or proprietary to Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club which is not public information such as personal information, team schedules, injuries, travel plans etc.
- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco
- Accessing sites during sanctioned events, including competitions that could compromise club safety
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity; derogatory comments regarding the club or another club; taunting comments aimed at an athlete, coach or team at another club and derogatory comments against race and/or gender.

In order to protect the integrity of Club routines and choreography, videos of current season routines can only be posted on any social media *after the end* of the competitive season.

Who to go to with a concern

If a swimmer, member, coach or parent believes that there is situation of unacceptable use of social media or mobile devices including cyberbullying or cyberstalking they can bring their concerns to the Club president or Head Coach or designate.

If the profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance of the Club's social media policy, the members may be subject to disciplinary action:

1. Formal verbal warning to the member for the President or designate or Head Coach in the presence of a parent/guardian if under 18.
2. Written warning from President or designate or Head Coach to the offender and a parent/guardian if under 18.
3. Suspension from attending any practices, club events and competitions
4. Expulsion from the club as a whole without return of fees.

Tips and Tricks

- Remember the Internet never forgets, always use common sense and never post in anger
- Respect your audience. Don't use ethnic slurs, personal insults, obscenity or engage in conduct that would be unacceptable on the pool deck
- Never post inappropriate photos (if your grandmother wouldn't be proud to see the photo in public or find it funny, don't post)
- Think about consequences and never make negative or disparaging remarks about yourself, your teammates, your coaches, your parents or any other athlete, club, or national team (Be proud of Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club without being mean to another club)
- Others will associate you with your postings with Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club so make us proud
- Post with integrity so your personal brand and the Club's brand will always be positive

- Follow Waterloo Region Artistic Swimming Club from your personal social media accounts
- Remember to protect your privacy i.e. never share your passwords