



BGHC Social Media Policy

"Social Networking" is defined as communicating through on-line communities or mobile apps such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, SnapChat, Instagram or other online forums. The Ontario Recreational Facilities Association (ORFA) has a policy forbidding certain devices in the dressing room, at any Ontario recreational facility. As a result, the City of Burlington and the BGHC supports and must enforce this policy.

The BGHC holds the entire BGHC community, including Executive Members, Managers, Coaches, Trainers, Players, Support Staff, on/off-ice officials and others who participate in SOCIAL NETWORKING to the same standards as it would with all forms of media.

Players/parents can NOT bring any device capable of recording images, video and/or sounds into a dressing room or in fact in close proximity to the door of a dressing room. These devices are to be left with a parent or guardian. This applies to any event, practice or game, off-ice training and applies to any facility in the province of Ontario. It is not the responsibility of a BGHC team staff member to look after these devices on behalf of the players. If for any reason a player needs to leave a device with a BGHC staff member, that player does so at her own risk and the BGHC will not be held responsible for lost or damaged devices.

Violating this policy and inappropriate behaviour over social networks will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action being taken by the BGHC.

1. A player/parent/coach/trainer who brings a device into the dressing room that is unconcealed (i.e. in their hand, pulls it out of their purse/hockey bag) will result in an automatic written warning.
2. The first violation of posting a photo/video/recording on social media from the dressing room or an inappropriate post will result in an automatic one game suspension and a discipline meeting with the BGHC Board.
3. The second violation of posting a photo/video/recording on social media from the dressing room or an inappropriate post will result in an automatic 5 game suspension and a discipline meeting with the BGHC Board.
4. The third violation of posting a photo/video/recording on social media from the dressing room or an inappropriate post will result in an automatic suspension until a discipline meeting with the Executive arranged with possible player released from the association.

The Board recognizes that perpetrator intent and victim impact may differ in each case, and reserves the right to escalate the process to automatic suspension immediately

All players should act in a respectful manner at all times as they represent the BGHC and are accountable for their comments. Once comments are published online, which could be detrimental to the BGHC and its members, these are on record and cannot be retracted.

The following are examples of conduct through social media and networking mediums that are considered violations of this policy and which may be subject to disciplinary action by the BGHC, at the discretion of the Board.

- Statements, which the Board deems to be of a critical, derogatory, racist or sexist nature.
- Harassment or bullying.
- Divulging confidential information that may include, but is not limited to the following: Board discussions, player movement, medical history (injuries or other), game plans or strategies and any other information that is deemed confidential.
- Sharing or divulging photos, videos or comments which promote negative influences or criminal behaviour, including but not limited to: drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, sexual exploitation, etc.
- Online activity that contradicts the current policies of the BGHC.

Disciplinary action by the Board can include warnings, suspensions or expulsion from the BGHC at the discretion of the Board as determined to be warranted in the circumstances.

Social media networks, chats, groups etc. that are initiated by players on a BGHC team or that include players on a BGHC team or group of teams are not encouraged or endorsed by the BGHC. As such, parents of players involved in such groups are expected to monitor their daughter's participation and all of the above rules will apply.

No BGHC officials shall participate in such groups where players are included. This includes any and all rostered staff of a BGHC team or any member of the BGHC Board. Groups formed by parents on a single team or teams for the sole purpose of relaying information from time-to-time are also subject to the rules above.