



SOUTH AFRICAN FIGURE SKATING ASSOCIATION

Social Media Policy

SAFSA SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

1. Purpose

This Social Media Policy establishes standards for the responsible use of social and digital media by persons associated with the South African Figure Skating Association (SAFSA), in order to:

- Protect the integrity, neutrality and reputation of SAFSA;
- Promote respectful, accurate and sportsmanlike communication;
- Safeguard athletes and officials; and
- Ensure alignment with SAFSA Rules, Codes and Annexures.

2. Scope and Applicability

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all SAFSA Members, including Athletes, Coaches, Officials, Judges, office-bearers, Provincial Associations, Clubs, Local Organising Committees, and any persons acting under SAFSA authority.
- 2.2 This Policy applies to all public and private social media activity where a Member is identifiable as a SAFSA Member or the content relates to SAFSA, its events or activities.

3 Relationship to SAFSA Rules and Policies

- 3.1 This Policy shall be read together with:
 - The SAFSA Code of Ethics;
 - The SAFSA Code of Conduct;
 - The SAFSA Code of Sportsmanship;
 - SAFSA Media and Branding Rules;
 - The Sponsorship & Fundraising Policy; and
 - Relevant SAFSA Rules and Annexures.
- 3.2 For disciplinary purposes, the Code of Conduct shall prevail.

4 General Principles (All Members)

All Members must ensure that social media activity:

- Is respectful, factual and responsible;
- Does not misrepresent SAFSA, its events, titles or decisions;
- Does not disclose confidential or sensitive information; and
- Does not bring SAFSA or the sport into disrepute.

Use of disclaimers (e.g. “views are my own”) does not exempt Members from compliance with this Policy.

5 Athlete Social Media Guidelines

5.1 Expectations for Athletes

Athletes are encouraged to use social media to:

- Promote the sport positively;
- Share personal achievements accurately;
- Support fellow athletes and teams; and
- Celebrate events and results in a respectful manner.

5.2 Prohibited Conduct for Athletes

Athletes must not:

- Post abusive, discriminatory, harassing or bullying content;
- Criticise or question judges' scores, officials' decisions or event outcomes;
- Disclose confidential matters, including selection deliberations or medical information;
- Misrepresent competition status or use prohibited titles; or
- Engage in online disputes that escalate conflict.

5.3 Additional Responsibilities for Minor Athletes

Where athletes are minors, parents or guardians are expected to:

- Support appropriate online conduct; and
- Prevent harmful or inappropriate posting on the athlete's behalf.

6 Official and Judge Social Media Obligations

6.1 Principle of Neutrality

Officials, Judges, Referees and SAFSA Office-Bearers are subject to higher standards of neutrality, independence and restraint due to their roles.

6.2 Strict Prohibitions

Officials shall not, on any platform:

- Comment on judging panels, evaluations, scores or assignments;
- Post opinions on selection decisions, governance matters or SAFSA deliberations;
- Discuss protests, appeals or disciplinary processes;
- Engage in online debate concerning athletes, coaches or other officials; or
- Express bias for or against any skater, club, province or discipline.

6.3 Professional Representation

Officials must ensure that:

- Their online presence reflects professionalism and impartiality;
- They avoid content that could reasonably give rise to perceptions of bias or conflict of interest; and
- They do not present personal views as SAFSA positions.

7 Commercial, Sponsorship and Branding

7.1 The use of SAFSA names, logos, branding or event titles on social media must comply with:

- SAFSA Branding Rules; and
- The Sponsorship & Fundraising Policy.

7.2 No Member may imply SAFSA endorsement of a product, sponsor or service without prior written approval.

8 Monitoring, Enforcement and Sanctions

8.1 SAFSA reserves the right to:

- Monitor publicly available content relating to SAFSA;
- Request correction or removal of inappropriate content; and
- Refer matters for disciplinary action where necessary.

8.2 Breaches of this Policy may result in:

- Warnings or directives;
- Withdrawal of accreditation or privileges;
- Disciplinary action under the Code of Conduct; and/or
- Further sanctions as provided for in SAFSA Rules.

9 Reporting of Concerns

Members are encouraged to report apparent breaches of this Policy through appropriate SAFSA channels. Retaliation against persons reporting concerns in good faith is strictly prohibited.

10 Acknowledgement

All Members are deemed to have acknowledged and accepted this Social Media Policy as a condition of SAFSA membership and participation in SAFSA-sanctioned activities.