

## IPF SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

### The Purpose of the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) Social Media Policy.

The International Powerlifting Federation recognizes the benefits of social media as an important instrument to engage and communicate with other athletes, and fans in our sport.

Social Media platforms can be extremely beneficial as a communication tool to inform and publicize the sport of powerlifting both nationally and internationally.

The IPF encourages free and respectful speech. However, all affiliated member federations must ensure, at the same time, the responsible use of social media, and that it is free of content that is not abusive, derogatory, racist, or defamatory, in any way, toward another person, group, business, organization or sponsor. Such use will not be tolerated, and swift action will be taken to correct disrespectful or abusive content to include contacting legal authorities, if necessary. Overall, be kind and respectful to the citizens of our community.

The IPF encourages and supports constructive and respectful dialogue, as well as content advertising our sport on Social Media.

The primary purpose of this policy is to establish standards of appropriate behaviour when using social media.

### The Scope of the IPF Social Media Policy

The policy shall apply to ALL athletes, coaches, officials, referees, staff members, competition directors, non-compete members, volunteers, affiliated directly or indirectly to the IPF. More importantly, this policy shall apply to all IPF National Associations and Federations to include their registered clubs.

Social Media posts/content that attempts to harm, slander, libel another person or another organization shall be deemed unacceptable.

Persons involved in our sport shall be safeguarded and provided with a safe, respectful, and secure environment for both training and competition, free from all bullying, harassment, and threats by way of social media.

### The IPF Guidelines for the Use of Social Media

First and foremost, each person is ultimately responsible for content they place on Social Media.

It is important that you think twice, before posting your content. Ask yourself, prior to posting any content, is it constructive or destructive in nature? Also, ensure the information that you place on

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Social Media is accurate and correct, and that it cannot be perceived by another person as threatening or intimidating in any way.

Please be conscious of the content that you publish as it may remain public for a long period of time.

Please consider, posted Social Media content may, in fact, open the door to your private or professional life.

Please be aware that your posted Social Media Content may reflect negatively on your powerlifting club, your National Federation, your friends, your family and the IPF. We're all representatives of our sport!

Your Social Media content should be respectful, and forthright in nature, and should have the same tone and demeanour as if you were having a face-to-face discussion with someone.

Do not post photographs or videos of other athletes or your teammates without their permission.

All Social Media content should always represent the highest level of professionalism. As an athlete, coach, official, and referee you are a representative of our sport and connected with the IPF.

Content of a questionable nature should be erased immediately.

Cyberbullying, in any form, shall not be tolerated, and will be taken seriously. Any incidence of cyberbullying should be reported to the IPF Court of Justice.

### **Violations of the IPF Social Media Policy**

The IPF cannot actively monitor Social Media Content for each person affiliated in some way previously or currently a member of a National Federation.

However, if there is Social Media Content brought to the attention of the IPF that is deemed not acceptable, the person and the inappropriate material may be forwarded to the Court of Justice.

If a violation to the policy is identified, the IPF shall act in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Code of Conduct, Code of Ethics, and other relevant policies.

A breach of this policy may result in the following:

- Warning and probation of the person for a set period.
- Suspension of the person's membership for a set period.
- Removal of the person from all elected positions.
- Safeguarding report filed against the person.
- Expulsion of member.

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Overall, each athlete, coach, official, referee and volunteer are ultimately responsible for what they post on social media. Please take the necessary time and be sure to think twice before posting content -- act responsibly.

Thank you.

**The IPF Executive Committee**

Updated on Monday, October 3, 2022.