



# St Francis of Assisi CYO Social Media Policy

## **Social Media Policy Brief & Purpose**

This St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Youth Organization (SFA CYO hereafter) social media policy provides a framework for using social media. Social media is a place where people exchange information, opinions and experiences to learn, develop and communicate. Whether SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, spectators, etc. are viewing an SFA CYO sponsored website or using a social media outlet that is not affiliated with the SFA CYO, parish or school, they should remain productive. This policy provides practical advice to avoid issues that might arise by careless use of social media in affiliation with any SFA CYO sponsored event or the SFA CYO in general. This policy also provides guidance for disciplinary actions for anyone who misuses social media resulting in direct or indirect negativity upon the SFA CYO and all affiliates.

## **Scope**

We expect all SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, spectators, etc. to follow this policy.

## **Policy Elements**

“Social media” refers to a variety of online communities like blogs, social networks, chat rooms and forums. This policy covers all of them. This policy includes the posting of inappropriate pictures and videos as well.

The SFA CYO considers two different elements: using personal social media as it relates to certain SFA CYO sponsored events and representing our SFA CYO through social media.

## **Using Social Media**

While we cannot continuously monitor social media and the people who access it, we do expect them to act responsibly and ensure the substance of any such social media architecture is appropriate, prudent and without malice of any kind.

We advise our SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, spectators, etc. to:

- Use their common sense.



## St Francis of Assisi CYO Social Media Policy

- Ensure others know that personal account or statements do not represent the SFA CYO, parish, school, SFA community, etc. SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, spectators, etc. should not state or imply that their personal opinions and content are authorized or endorsed by the SFA CYO. We advise using a disclaimer such as “opinions are my own” to avoid any misunderstandings.
- Avoid any defamatory, offensive or derogatory content. It may also be considered as a violation of our SFA parish and school’s anti-bullying policy, if directed towards SFA CYO players, students or child spectators.

### Representing Our SFA CYO

If any SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, SFA CYO Board Members, etc. were to represent the SFA CYO by handling social media accounts or speaking on behalf of the SFA CYO, we expect them to act carefully and responsibly to protect the SFA CYO’s image and reputation.

SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, SFA CYO Board Members, etc. should:

- Be respectful, polite and patient, when engaging in conversations on behalf of the SFA CYO
- Never post discriminatory, offensive or libelous content and commentary on any social media
- Never direct any offensive comments towards other members of the online community
- Correct or remove any misleading or false content as quickly as possible

### Disciplinary Consequences

The SFA CYO Board will monitor all social media postings as best as they can. We may have to take disciplinary action leading up to and including suspension and or termination of all SFA CYO affiliated events if SFA CYO activities participants, parishioners, volunteers, coaches, spectators, etc. do not follow this policy’s guidelines. Disciplinary actions will be as follows:

- **First Offense** – Documented warning and immediate notification to that team’s respective Head Coach if the offender(s) is on an SFA CYO sponsored team.
- **Second Offense** – One year suspension from participating all SFA CYO sponsored events. The one year suspension shall commence from the date this policy was breached and continue for one calendar year.
- **Third Offense** – Lifetime ban of all SFA CYO sponsored events, including attendance.



## **St Francis of Assisi CYO Social Media Policy**

The above consequences are to be used as guidelines only. There can be flexibility to bypass the first and or second offense, if such social media activity far exceeds what a prudent person would feel is consistent back and forth banter between parties. In order to bypass a first or second disciplinary offense, the said offense(s) will be brought in front of the St. Francis of Assisi CYO Board and a vote will be conducted and tallied. The resulting vote and action will be delivered to the Head Coach and the disciplinary consequence will be carried out immediately.