

Statement on Use of Social Media for WCGA Members

It is recommended that WCGA active members thoroughly consider the purpose and potential outcome of participation in social media. It is strongly advised that members use social media in a professional, responsible, and respectful manner. Coaches should use social media in ways that set positive examples for the student athlete, officials, fans, and peer institutions. As mentors, coaches have a special responsibility to model appropriate practices. Specifically, criticizing officials in a public forum does not align with our code of ethics as a professional organization. It sends the wrong message to athletes and fans who take their lead from the coach. It is disrespectful and unsportsmanlike behavior. Members must be conscious that content posted to social media may have negative consequences on reputations or careers for years to come, reflect poorly upon the gymnastics profession, or undermine the confidence of our universities in the product we represent. Postings on social media should be subject to the same professional standards and ethical considerations as other personal or public interactions.