

MODERATION GUIDELINES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

The IOC has strict values which it wishes to uphold across its Social Media spaces, which include no swearing, no defaming of individuals and all entries must be on-topic. The 'spirit of the Olympics'

At all times we ask our community members to respect the Olympic Charter

<http://www.olympic.org/olympic-charter/documents-reports-studies-publications>

DEFAMATION

Defamation is the legal term that covers both slander and libel; slander is defamation by word of mouth, and libel is defamation in written form.

A defamatory comment is one that would be likely to damage or undermine the reputation of the relevant person in the eyes of members of the general public by:

- Exposing the individual or organisation to hatred, ridicule or contempt;
- Causing the individual or organisation to be shunned or avoided;
- Lowering the individual or organisation in the estimation of right-thinking members of society; or
- Disparaging the individual in their office, profession or trade or the organisation's office, profession or trade.

These types of comments are not allowed.

HARASSMENT: PRIVACY LAW

We cannot allow for any messaging which may involve a user or group of users blatantly harassing another user/s or individuals.

CONTEMPT OF COURT

For the sake of any doubt, ANY messages containing details, comments or any matter whatsoever regarding court proceedings (whether criminal or civil) will not be allowed.

RACISM

We cannot allow for anything that can be deemed to be racist and offensive towards any group of people.

If you are ever in any doubt please do not publish the message (hold it in the queue) and escalate it to management for further advise.

RELIGION

Debate about religion and religious groups are considered off topic.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Reference to disability should be included only in neutral terms.

Stereotyping messages are not be accepted.

MINORITY GROUPS

We do not allow any inflammatory messages.

Allow positive, factual, non-confrontational and constructive comments.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL

It is acceptable for a user to refer to his/her sexuality as gay, however we need to be careful with potentially defamatory posts accusing someone else of being gay – these will be removed.

It is acceptable for users to use the word "gay" in a light-hearted "street talk" manner, e.g. "that's so gay" – but if used to be discriminatory it will be removed.

OBSCENITY AND INDECENCY

Any obscene material, relating to race, religion and offensive sexual material will be removed (this includes threats, harassment, incitement, abuse, extreme swearing, religious hate, etc...).

INDECENCY: SEXUAL/PORNOGRAPHIC

Explicit, on-line sexual descriptions are not acceptable and will be deleted.

The Olympics community is focused on specific discussion topics and any off-topic messages of this nature should be rejected.

COPYRIGHT

Copyright is the protection given by law to the creator of a work for their lifetime plus 70 years.

Creators do not have to register anything. The protection is automatic and gives the copyright owner control over the usage of their work and allows them to receive payment for the work.

Protected work is literary, and includes written or spoken words, emails, postings, translations, even dictionary definitions and lyrics.

There could be times when a user directly cuts and pastes an extract from another site or from a news story.

PERSONAL DETAIL EXCHANGE

Any user messages submitting or asking for any contact details of any sort; be it mobile, home or any other contact telephone numbers, e-mail addresses, ICQ Numbers, MSN names, surnames, school names or locations or arranging meeting times and places will be removed.

NO GEOGRAPHIC / LOCATION REFERENCES

It is fine for users to mention their town or city but any further location details will be removed without exception.

USERS ARRANGING TO MEET UP

We do not allow for any discussion which involves users trying to meet or discussing any form of location details.

As above in terms of users discussing locations or where they may live, only general areas are acceptable, e.g. Brixton, Los Angeles, etc - any further details will be deleted without exception.

IMPERSONATION

Any user impersonating staff, experts or other officials of the Olympics or the public is unacceptable.

CRITICISM OF THE IOC

It is acceptable for people to criticise the IOC or the Olympic Games in general but content will be removed if it is offensive or if it names people individually.

CANDIDATE CITIES

During times when candidate cities are being selected, the IOC does not allow comments promoting a particular city as the best candidate.

MENTION OF COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Obvious advertising is NOT allowed but mention of a brand in context to the discussion is fine as long as it is not libellous or could be considered ambush marketing.

UNAUTHORISED COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Use of the community for unauthorised commercial purposes – advertising, selling, betting, etc. is not allowed.

REVIEW / CRITIQUES OF PRODUCTS

Content criticising products or services, or for users to say that they've been ripped off or have received bad service (line between defamation and personal opinion based on experience) is not allowed.

AUCTION SITES

We can allow users to talk about auction site products and make links to them – but if it appears that the user is making directly link for their own commercial gain it should be referred.

POSTING OF WEBSITE ADDRESSES

It is fine for users to post URLs.

Links to users' personal sites are not acceptable.

VIOLENCE

We do not allow anything directly inciting:

- violence, past violence or the threat of violence unless constructive;
- riots;
- civil disobedience;
- dissent;
- Discussion of violence

CRIMINAL OR IMMORAL ACTIVITY

As above, any discussion concerning criminal or immoral activity are not acceptable.

DRUGS

We do not allow any messages which advocate or encourage the use of, or selling drugs,

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRINKING

As outlined above with drugs, we cannot allow for messages which advocate and encourage smoking and/or alcoholic drinking,

STEREOTYPES

Much humour depends on stereotypes. Care however is needed to avoid the unthinking or lazy adoption of stereotypes, e.g. the different portrayal of male and female behaviour – men; aggressive, lazy, breadwinner, women; housewife, baby-maker.

Do not allow a user to express genuine hatred or excessive negative feeling which is thought to upset or disrupt the enjoyment for the rest of the users.

DESTRUCTIVE SPAMMING

Users cannot fill up the message board with repetitive messages.

NICKNAMES / USERNAMES FOR COMMUNITY

Inappropriate nicknames are not allowed.

BREACH OF CONFIDENCE

A person who receives sensitive information in circumstances where he/she knew (or should have known) that such information was not for distribution to third parties is bound by what is known as a duty of confidentiality.

Employer / Employee – please be aware of privacy laws at all times if someone is discussing their work or employer. Any direct reference to work ethics or individuals falls into privacy and we cannot allow it.

The disclosure of such information that appears to breach such a duty will not be allowed.

USER PROFILE IMAGES

User profile pictures are displayed on user comments - messages where the user profile picture may be capable of causing extreme offence are not allowed.