

OAHI WEBSITE ADMINISTRATION

7.1 Purpose

1. The website content should be chosen to provide support and services to OAHI members, to attract potential new members, and develop and support public awareness of OAHI.

7.2 Policy: General Operation

1. The PR committee shall be responsible for the operation of the association web site with direction from the appropriate sub committees, work groups, BOD and the web site administrator.
2. The PR committee shall be responsible for maintaining an up to date backup of the entire site at all times in one of the following locations: OAHI office, the PR chairperson's computer or the OAHI administrator's computer. The PR committee will also ensure that the service provider performs a daily backup.
3. Issues regarding policy shall be decided by the Public Relations committee and/or Board of Directors.
4. Staff shall develop and maintain website pages that have non technical topics.
5. The staff shall develop, maintain and update website pages that have technical topics with assistance from the appropriate committees of work groups as necessary.

7.3 Policy: Members Links

1. Links to individual OAHI member's websites may be listed on the OAHI website free of charge, as a members benefit.
2. Links are subject to approval by the staff and PR committee and/or the Board of Directors. Criteria for approval shall be:
 - a) Membership in OAHI
 - b) Member in good standing.
 - c) Must meet community standards and be in good taste.
 - d) Members must meet criteria to display the OAHI logo.
 - e) Must meet the approval of the PR committee and the BOD.

7.4 Policy: Links to Other Web Site

1. The staff may place free links to other web sites after approval. Criteria approval shall be:
 - a) The linked pages must be of interest to the OAHI members or public and relate to the home inspection profession or the operation of a home inspection business, or of the interest of the general public and relate to homes or other real estate.
 - b) Linked pages must meet community standards and be in good taste.

7.5 Procedure: Reciprocal Links

1. Reciprocal links should be requested but are not required if the link is a benefit to the members or the public.
2. The staff should not approve and may remove links to pages that are incomplete or under construction.

7.6 Policy: Advertising

1. Advertising may be permitted on the OAHI website subject to the approval of the OAHI staff in accordance with the advertising policies and procedures of other OAHI publications and activities.
2. OAHI affiliates may be permitted free advertising, within guidelines established by the OAHI staff, PR committee and/or the Board of Directors.
3. Rates for advertising will be set by the PR Committee and/or the Board of Directors.
4. Advertising should be limited to website area and sizes that maintain the professional image and credibility of the Association.
5. Advertising should be formatted to have a different appearance than the editorial pages.
6. Criteria for approval of advertising:
 - a) Must be of interest to OAHI members or the general public and relate to the home inspection profession, home related information or the operation of a home inspection business.
 - b) Advertising must meet community standards and be in good taste.
 - c) Advertising links shall not be on the "Home Page" or the "Find an Inspector" pages.

7.7 Procedure: Advertising

1. Staff is responsible for the administration of the advertising.
2. Advertising policies should be consistent with advertising policies of other OAHI publications.
3. Educational offerings (such as meeting groups or other seminars) will be listed for free.
4. Educational providers such as training schools should be charged a fee for a listing.

7.8 Policy: Member Data Base File

1. Staff shall maintain an up to date membership database file on the web site that can be searched by the public to locate an OAHI member (in good standing) and their services.

7.9 Procedure: Member Database file

1. The member database file should be updated weekly.

7.10 Policy: Membership Forums (technical and general) Required Protocol

1. Two information forums will be provided for the member's use. The Forums will allow members to discuss technical information and general information relating to the association or the operation of a home inspection business. To provide this service, OAHI requires that each member; Student, Applicant, Associate, RHI or Retired agrees to be bound by the rules and terms listed below.
2. The OAHI Membership Forums are a membership privilege (not a right) extended to every individual in the OAHI membership who is in good standing.
 - a) The purpose of the OAHI Membership Forum is strictly for the education of its participants ("Users") in the technical aspects of the home inspection profession along with the sharing of information and personal experiences directly related to inspection issues.
 - b) The purpose of the Forum shall be to foster communication among OAHI members regarding the home inspection profession and the Association business.
 - c) Opinions expressed on the Forums are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of OAHI or its Directors.
 - d) OAHI assumes no legal responsibility for the opinions or statements of the OAHI Forum Users.
 - e) OAHI does not officially respond to issues raised on the Forums. If you have an issue, concern or complaint regarding an OAHI member, policy, BOD or committee decision you should follow the proper procedures laid out in the OAHI bylaws.
 - f) All discussions will consist of appropriate language and shall not be slanderous, degrading or mean in spirit.
 - g) A select committee of volunteer OAHI members shall monitor the Forums. Disregard for the Forum rules will result in immediate suspension of the Forum privileges
 - h) BEWARE! OAHI does not promote the Forum to non members, but, as with any on line forum, your messages are potentially accessible by the public.
3. Access to the forums is limited to the OAHI MEMBERS in good standing who agree to abide by the following forum Rules for Users Agreement:
 - a) All subject matter is restricted to real estate inspections and related issues.
 - b) Respect other Users on the OAHI Membership Forum. You may express yourself, but not to injure harm or damage others. Users are expected to exercise professionalism, common sense and courtesy in the message transmitted over the OAHI Forums.
 - c) OAHI Membership Forums shall not be used to libel, slander, defame or disparage a member or candidate of OAHI or any other person, company or organization.
 - d) Anonymous posts are not permitted on the OAHI Membership Forums. All postings must include the member's name.
 - e) Posts advertising or promoting any product or service or inspector membership other than OAHI directly or indirectly, are not permitted on the OAHI Forums, and will be removed promptly. (CAHPI, ASHI discussions are excluded from this rule)
 - f) Use of the OAHI forum the distribution of unwanted email (spamming) is prohibited.

- g) Use of the OAHI Forum for illegal activities is prohibited, including illegal drugs, gambling, pornography, prostitution, child pornography, robbery, spreading computer viruses, entering private computer discussion boards, soft wear infringement, trafficking in credit card codes, or other crimes.
- h) The OAHI Forum is not to be used to communicate with others about prices, terms of service or other competitive information as this is a violation of the anti-trust laws. The OAHI Membership Forums constitutes an ongoing “meeting” of participants. Such meeting may involve competitors. The same rules against illegal agreements in restraint of trade that apply at members meetings apply to OAHI Forum communications.
- i) Any Forum communication may be down loaded without the knowledge of the sender(s), users should be both fully informed about antitrust law regarding communication and agreements among competitors, and act in strict conformity with those rules
- j) The OAHI Membership Forums may not be used to violate and rules of membership in OAHI, the OAHI bylaws, or the OAHI code of conduct. The OAHI code of conduct rules apply to all Users of the Forum
- k) Do not upload or distribute files subject to trademark or copyright, or other proprietary rights except with the expressed consent of the owners of the rights.
- l) OAHI Membership Forums are a benefit for OAHI membership only. Others are not permitted on the OAHI Membership Forums unless special permission is granted by OAHI.
- m) OAHI reserves the right without prior notice to modify or change these rules as it determines from time to time in the best interests of OAHI.
- n) Posted items may be published in the OAHI news letter or the CAHPI’s “The Canadian Home Inspector” if the topic is deemed to be of interest to the general membership. The name of the person posting the information will not be published without their permission.
- o) In accordance with the OAHI “Code of Conduct”, an inspector shall make every effort to uphold, maintain, and improve the professional integrity, reputation and practice of the home inspection profession. He or she will report such relevant information, including violations of this code by other members to the Association for possible remedial action.

All electronic messages may be copied as a routine matter and may be destroyed on a regular basis. OAHI disclaims responsibility to maintain copies of any such communications or to assure that such information is deleted.

ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

General

Whenever the name "Ontario Association of Home Inspectors" or "OAHl" appears in this protocol, Rules and User Agreement, it shall include OAHl's Board of Directors, committees, staff or its representatives.

This agreement is the entire understanding between myself and OAHl regarding my relationship to the OAHl Membership Forums. If either I or OAHl fail to notify the other of any violations of this agreement, this will not mean that I or OAHl cannot notify the other of future violations of any part of this agreement.

I, a User, expressly release and waive any and all claims and damages I may have against OAHl in connection with or arising from the OAHl Membership Forums including but not limited to negligence, breach of contract, fraud or other tortuous conduct.

Limitation of Liability and Indemnity

All Users must accept responsibility for their own acts and accepts that an act by another user that may damage them must not be blamed on OAHl, but solely on the other USER. Therefore, as a condition of participation in OAHl Membership Forums, participants agree as follows:

I, the USER, further agree that OAHl will not be responsible to me for an direct, indirect, consequential, special or punitive damages or loses I may incur in connection with the OAHl Forums or any data or other materials transmitted through or residing on the OAHl Forums. In addition, I agree to defend and indemnify OAHl and hold OAHl harmless from and against any and all claims, proceedings damages, injuries, liability losses, costs and expenses (including reasonable attorney fees) relating to any acts or omissions by me or material or information transmitted by me in connection with the OAHl Forums, leading wholly or partially to claims against OAHl or OAHl Membership Forums by other members, Users or third parties.

Access protocol

OAHI Membership Forum Protocol

1. OAHI Membership Forums access privileges shall be limited only to OAHI members in good standing who abide by the posted OAHI Membership Forum rules.
2. The OAHI Membership Forums "Protocol" (rules of use) as approved by the OAHI BOD shall be published and maintained on the OAHI member's website and the OAHI Membership Forums.
3. The OAHI Membership Forum Monitor(s) shall be appointed for a one year term of the office by the OAHI incoming President, subject to the approval by the Board of Directors.
4. The monitors shall give their personal time with the goal of maintaining the OAHI Membership Forum as an education, association information venue. If available, the previous years monitor(s) can serve as advisors to the incoming monitor(s) in the interest of continuity.
5. The OAHI Forum monitor(s) shall have the means and opportunity to remove, without warning, any posted message(s) by a User that does not comply with the approval of the OAHI Forum Protocol and temporarily remove, without warning, a User's post for up to 72 hrs if the monitor(s) believes it does not comply with the protocol while a poll of the DPPC committee is obtained.

An OAHI Membership Forum User found in non-compliance of the Protocol shall be warned by the Forum Monitor and:

1. A warning will be sent via e-mail without the request for the offender to remove their offending posts: the Monitor(s) will remove the offending posts.
2. After the second warning, the offender will be put on probation.
3. Upon a third warning, they will be removed for a period of not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days.
4. After returning, if they offend again, a 90 day suspension will be imposed.
5. Any further transgressions will earn no less than a one year suspension and a review by the DPPC.
6. All Users of the Forum are required to have a valid email address to send warnings to.
7. The decision of the Forum Monitor(s) and the DPPC is final and binding.

User Agreement

I have read and understand the OAHI Forum Protocol and Rules and User Agreement and agree to accept the Rules of Use and terms of this agreement and to use OAHI Membership Forum only in compliance with them. Entrance to and use of the OAHI Membership Forums shall constitute my agreement to these terms and conditions.