



Electronic Communication Policy of Next Revolution Volleyball

PURPOSE

Next Revolution Volleyball (the "Club") recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our student-athletes use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

For example, as with any communication with an athlete, electronic communication should not contain or relate to any of the following:

- Drugs or alcohol use;
- Sexually-oriented conversation; sexually explicit language, sexual activity
- The adult's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems; and
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures
- Note: Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, board member or parent, the guiding principle to always use in communication is to ask: "Is this communication something that someone else would find appropriate or acceptable in a face-to-face meeting?" or "Is this something you would be comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient of your communication in front of the intended recipient's parents, the coaching staff, the board or other athletes?"

With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with athletes is **Transparent, Accessible and Professional**.

Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should not only be clear and direct, but also free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.

Accessible: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of the Club's records. Whenever possible, include another coach or parent in the communication so there is no question regarding accessibility.

Professional: All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of the Club. This includes word choice, tone, grammar and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

If your communication meets all three of the **T.A.P.** criteria, then it is likely your method and manner of communication with athletes will be appropriate.

FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, BLOGS AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

Coaches may have personal social media site pages, and may be permitted to have athlete members of the Club join their personal page as a “friend”. However, this must be done with knowledge by the athlete’s parent and in full transparency access to all communications between the coaches and athletes.

Coaches must exercise extreme care when it comes to their social media persona as it pertains to the T.A.P. criteria since what they say, do or share may be indirectly communicating with athletes even if they are not connected to them via these media.

The club has an official Facebook page that athletes and their parents can “like” or “friend” for information and updates on team-related matters.

SNAPCHAT

Due to Snapchat being inaccessible on its face, the use of Snapchat as a mode of electronic communication between coach and player is strictly prohibited by the Club.

TEXTING

Subject to the ‘T.A.P.’ guidelines as outlined above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. There may be occasions where coaches need to communicate important tournament-related information outside of those hours.

EMAIL

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communications. Immediate compliance without repercussion must be granted.

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can be used to commit misconduct (e.g. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our SafeSport Handbook.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of the Club’s Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a Club administrator or the Regional SafeSport Officer for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure.

A USA Volleyball participant or parent of a participant who violates this policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.