

Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy

Electronic Communication Policy of Junior Slammers Volleyball Club

Junior Slammers VBC 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 risk 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.

As with any communication with and 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 adults' personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems; and
- Inappropriate of sexually explicit pictures.

Note: Any communication concerning an athlete's personal like, 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 you communication in front of the intended recipient's parent, the coaching staff, the board, or other athletes?"

-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, innuendos, 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.

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

TEXTING/TWITTER Coaches and athletes may follow each other on Twitter. But Coaches cannot re-tweet and athlete message post. Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours from 7:00am to 10:00 pm. Texting should be used for the purpose of communication information directly related to team activities.

EMAIL Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach or board member must be copied. It is best to directly email parent regarding any team activities.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTONIC COMMUNICATIONS The parents or guardian 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 (i.e. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrator, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violation of our SafeSport Handbook.

VIOLATIONS Violation of the Club’s Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a Club administrator or the Regional SafeSport Contact for evaluation.

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.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date ___ / ___ / ___