



Social Media and Electronic Communication

Electronic Communication Policy of Club North Volleyball – following USAV Code of Conduct

PURPOSE

Club North Volleyball 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, tobacco (cigarette/vaping), 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 (T.A.P)**

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, TWITTER, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may have personal Facebook (or other social media site) pages, but they are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Club join their personal page as a "friend." A coach should not accept any "friend" request from any athlete. In addition, the coach should remind the athlete that this is not permitted. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "private message" each other through Facebook. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "instant message" each other through Facebook chat or other IM methods.

The club has an official Facebook, Instagram and Twitter page that athletes and their parents can "like" or "friend" for information and updates on Club related matters.

Coaches are encouraged to set their pages to "private" to prevent athletes from accessing the coach's personal information.

TWITTER

Best Practice: Club North Coaches are not permitted to follow athletes on Twitter. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to follow coaches on Twitter. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "direct message" each other through Twitter.

Alternative Option: Coaches and athletes may follow each other on Twitter. Coaches cannot retweet an athlete message post. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "direct message" each other through Twitter.

TEXTING

Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities. Parents must be copied in any player related communication. Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes/parents during the hours from 8am until 10pm.

EMAIL

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach or a board member must also be copied.

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.

TEAM COMMUNICATION MEDIUM

A team can have a communication app for practice, tournament and team get together events. The app should be moderated by either a parent-assistance or a coach. At no time should it be left to team members to lead. A team app cannot be used for any other means other than for communicating team related activities. No other conversation or off team activities discussions are permitted.

MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications – including team related app can be used to commit misconduct (e.g. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, posting of explicit images and hazing). It will be considered a violation of our Club North Social Media policy if a Club North coach, staff, volunteer, administrators, officials, parents or athletes uses their social media or team app in a manner that contravenes USAV, HOAVB, Safe Sport policy, and or creates a disruption to their Club North team chemistry and brings the Club into disrepute.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of Club North Social-Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to Patty Reynolds, or HOA for evaluation and disciplinary process. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure in accordance with USA Volleyball, HOAVB and Safe Sport. Club North Volleyball has the right to suspend an individual or refer them for complete expulsion. If a player is expelled, there will be no fees refunded.

CLUB NORTH VOLLEYBALL RESERVES THE RIGHTS TO ADD, AMMEND OR CHANGE CONTENTS OF THIS MANUAL AT ANY TIME DURING THE SEASON.