

Ely Blue Line Electronic Communication Policy

As part of USA Hockey's emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. **Adherence to the Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.**

The Communication Policy Guidelines are:

- All communication must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.
- All communication between coaches, players and team personnel must be readily available to share, if necessary, publicly.
- **All communication between coach and player under age 18 must be copied to a parent or include parents.**
- Coaches are prohibited from having players joined or connected through personal Facebook or similar social media. There may be conduct through a "team page" that all coaches, players, administrators and parents have access to.
- Following the receipt of a written request by the parents of a minor player that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults in the program, the local program, team, coaches and administrators shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.
- Any misconduct should be reported to the SafeSport Coordinator.