

Vegas United Volleyball Club

Social Media and Electronic Communication



Electronic Communication Policy of Vegas United Volleyball Club

PURPOSE

Vegas United Volleyball Club (hereinafter "VUVC") 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 VUVC acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, VUVC 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 and Vegas United Volleyball Club Personnel Code of Ethics 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/An 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**.

Vegas United Volleyball Club

Social Media and Electronic Communication



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 VUVC'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 VUVC. 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 accounts on social media sites or applications. Coaches and club personnel are encouraged to communicate with any athlete member of the Club through other forms of communication, such as using the telephone, texting, emailing and club approved communication applications.

VUVC has official Facebook and Instagram pages that athletes and their parents can "like" or "friend" for information and updates on team-related matters.

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

TEXTING & EMAIL

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during reasonable hours. Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. Texting and emailing shall only be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities.

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.

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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 Participant Safety Handbook.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of VUVC's Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to another VUVC personnel, a VUVC administrator/director or Board member, 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.

Received and agreed to by:

Athlete's Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____