

Introduction:

This policy describes acceptable and appropriate as well as unacceptable interactions between minor athletes and Adults representing, employed by, or members or the board of directors, as well as other adults at Great River SC fields and facilities, or training or competition venues.

Policy:

Policy Application:

- A. This policy shall apply to:
1. Adults at a venue under the jurisdiction of Great River SC (GRSC) (including all GRSC fields and facilities)
 2. Adult members who have regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors
 3. An adult authorized by GRSC to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor
 4. Staff and board members of GRSC

(Collectively, Adults; items 2-4 are collectively Participating Adults).

One-on-One Interactions:

- A. Observable and interruptible
1. One-on-one interactions between minors and an Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at our fields and facilities, or a training or competition venue are permitted, if they occur at an observable and interruptible distance by another adult.
 2. Isolated, one-on-one interactions between minors and an Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at our fields and facilities are prohibited, except under emergency circumstances.



B. Meetings

1. Meetings between Adults and minors at our fields and facilities may only occur if another adult is present, except under emergency circumstances. Such meetings must occur where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult.
2. If a one-on-one meeting takes place in an office, the door to the office must remain unlocked and open. If available, it will occur in an office that (if available) has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.

C. Meetings with mental health care professionals

1. If a mental health care professional meets with minors at our fields and facilities, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy – provided that (1) the door remains unlocked, (2) another adult is present at the field or facility, (3) the other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring, and (4) written legal guardian consent is obtained by the mental health care professional, with a copy provided to our organization.

D. Individual training sessions

1. Individual training sessions between Adults and minors are permitted at our fields and facilities if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. The Adult must obtain the written permission of the minor's legal guardian in advance of the individual training session. Parents, guardians, and other caretakers must be allowed to observe the training session. Permission for individual training sessions must be obtained at least every six months.

E. Monitoring

1. When one-on-one interactions between Adults and minors occur at our fields and facilities, adults will monitor these interactions. Monitoring includes: knowing that the one-on-one interaction is occurring, the approximate planned duration of the interaction, and randomly dropping in on the one-on-one.

F. Out-of-program contacts

1. Adults are prohibited from interacting *one-on-one* with unrelated minor athletes in settings outside of the program (including, but not limited to, one's home, restaurants, and individual transportation), unless parent/legal guardian consent is provided for each out-of-program contact. Such arrangements are nonetheless strongly discouraged.



G. Massages and Rubdowns

1. Massages and Rubdowns are strictly prohibited by any Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) at our fields and facilities, or a training or competition venue except the unlikely situation where:
 - i. Any massage or rubdown performed by an Adult on a minor athlete at our fields and facilities, or a training or competition venue is prohibited unless such Adult is a licensed massage therapist.
 - ii. Any massage or rubdown performed at our fields or facilities or a training or competition venue by a licensed professional must be conducted in open and interruptible locations. Any massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and licensed massage therapist in the room.
 - iii. Even if a team coaches or manager is a licensed massage therapist, they shall not perform a rubdown or massage of an athlete, when the Adult is not the minor's legal guardian, under any circumstances.
 - iv. Written consent by a legal guardian shall be provided before providing each massage or rubdown on a minor athlete. Parents must be permitted to be in the room as an observer.

H. Locker Rooms, Rest Rooms and Changing Areas

1. Use of recording devices - Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras in locker rooms, rest rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces at a field or facility under GRSC's jurisdiction is prohibited. Exceptions may be made for media and championship celebrations, provided that such exceptions are approved by the Covered Organization and two or more adults are present.
2. Undress - Under no circumstances shall an unrelated Adult at a facility under our organization's jurisdiction be undressed (disrobed or partial or full nudity where private body parts are exposed) in front of minor athletes.
3. Isolated one-on-one interactions - At no time are unrelated Adults permitted to be alone with a minor in a locker room, rest room, or changing area when at a field or facility under our jurisdiction, except under emergency circumstances.
4. Monitoring - Our organization regularly and randomly monitors the use of locker rooms, rest rooms, and changing areas at fields and facilities under our jurisdiction to ensure compliance with these policies.



5. Non-exclusive facility - If our organization uses a facility not under its jurisdiction (for, e.g., training or competition or similar events) and the facility is used by multiple constituents, Participating Adults (in categories 2 through 4 of section A) are nonetheless required to adhere to the rules set forth here.
6. Adults make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the rest room, locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.
7. We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let a coach or administrator know about this in advance.

Social Media & Electronic Communications:

- A. Electronic Communication Definition – Electronic Communication includes any communication not occurring in person, including but not limited to text messages, emails, chat features on club platforms, other group chat options used by the team, or direct messaging/private messaging via social media.
- B. All electronic communication originating from Participating Adults to amateur athletes who are minors must be professional in nature.
- C. Open and transparent
 1. If a Participating Adult needs to communicate directly with an amateur athlete who is a minor via electronic communications, another Participating Adult or the minor's legal guardian will be copied.
 2. If a minor athlete communicates to the Participating Adult privately first, the Participating Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Participating Adult or the minor's legal guardian.
 3. A Participating Adult communicating electronically to the entire team will copy another Participating Adult (eg. a coach should include the team manager or the assistant coach).
 4. Amateur athletes who are minors *may* "friend" the organization's official page.
- D. Prohibited electronic communications
 1. Participating Adults are not permitted to communicate privately via electronic communications with amateur athletes who are minors, except under emergency circumstances.



2. Participating Adults are not permitted to “private message,” “instant message,” “direct message”, or send photos via Snapchat, Instagram, or other social media platform to a minor athlete privately.
 3. Participating Adults are not permitted to maintain social media connections with minors; such adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from amateur athletes who are minors and existing social media connections with amateur athletes who are minors shall be discontinued
- E. Requests to discontinue
1. Legal guardians may request in writing that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the organization or by the organization’s Participating Adults. The organization will abide by any such request that their child not be contacted via electronic communication, absent emergency circumstances.
- F. Hours - Electronic communications will only be sent during normal daytime hours.
- G. Monitoring
1. GRSC monitors its social media pages and club platforms and removes any posts that violate the organization’s policies and practices for appropriate behavior.
 2. The organization will inform the legal guardian of a minor athlete of any prohibited posts, as well as the organization’s administrator.
 3. If any posts are found that violate GRSC’s policies, please contact a board member immediately.

Team Travel:

- A. Transportation
1. GRSC does not arrange for local travel.
 2. Participating Adults who are not also acting as a legal guardian, shall not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated athlete who is a minor, absent emergency circumstances, and may only drive with at least two other minor athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s parent/legal guardian in advance of local travel. A copy of the written permission, containing the date and parent/legal guardian signature should be submitted to GRSC for storage
 3. For the protection of GRSC and the Participating Adult a copy of the written permission should be submitted to the board.



- B. Shared or Carpool Travel Arrangement
1. We encourage parents/legal guardians (who are not Participating Adults) to pick up their minor athlete first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.
- C. Overnight team/competition travel
1. Hotel rooms - Participating Adults shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete (unless the Participating Adult is the legal guardian, sibling, or is otherwise related to the minor athlete). In the case of a dual relationship between participating adults and players families may give written permission for the player to join the participating adult's family hotel room. A copy of the written permission, containing the date and parent/legal guardian signature should be submitted to GRSC for storage. Reference US Soccer Minor Athlete Prevention Policy for additional information.
 2. Meetings - Meetings shall be conducted consistent with the organization's policy for one-on-one interactions – i.e., any such meeting shall be observable and interruptible, and Meetings shall not be conducted in a hotel room.
 3. During team travel when doing room check, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and observable and interruptible environments should be maintained. Participating Adults may not enter a minors hotel room, except under emergency circumstances with another Adult present.

