# BAHA's Social Media/ Electronic Communications Policy

Communications involving any participant, especially minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent.

All electronic communication between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

All content between coaches and players should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player or coach.

If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication must also copy or include the player's parents

## Social Media

Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application.

To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up. Players and parents may join (i.e., "friend") the official organization or team page, as well the coaches can communicate to players though that site.

## Email, Text Messaging and Similar Electronic Communications

Coaches, team managers and players may use email and text messaging to communicate. All email and text message content between coaches/team managers and players must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

No group texting by coaches is allowed unless another coach or team manager is included in the group text.

Emails and text messages from a coach to any minor participant must include a copy to the player's parents.

## Request To Discontinue All Electronic Communications or Imagery with Athlete

Following 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.

## Abuse and Misconduct

Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant of a USA Hockey Member Program will not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey's SafeSport Program.