



## **DAYHA SOCIAL MEDIA, MOBILE & ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY**

**This Policy Covers:** All DAYHA members, which includes but is not limited to; Volunteers, Coaches, Board of Directors, Administrators, Officials, Parents and Players.

**Overview:** As part of DAYHA's emphasis on athlete safety, communications involving our youth players should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among administrators, coaches, 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 players. The improper use of mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to a policy for mobile and electronic communication reduces these risks.

All electronic communications between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about these activities. Coaches must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication. Any content of an electronic communication 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 e-mail, electronic text, social media, or similar communication must copy or include the player's parents.

**Post only Appropriate and Respectful Content on Social Media:** We understand that DAYHA members may maintain and/or contribute to social media and may on occasion post information that relates to the game of hockey. Common sense is the best guide if you decide to post information that, in any way, relates to the game or to the Association. Express only your personal opinions, and the Association asks that you keep those opinions appropriate and respectful knowing that as a member of the DAYHA Association that you represent the Association within the Community. Be respectful and courteous to fellow members of the Association and other volunteers of the Association. Please keep in mind that you are more than likely to resolve a complaint by speaking directly with your player's team coach or the Board of Directors rather than posting complaints on social media. However, if you decide to post criticism or complaints, avoid posting content that reasonably could be viewed as obscene, malicious, intimidating, threatening, or that might constitute bullying or harassment.

**Social Media (FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat and Similar Sites):**

- Online discussion boards, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media make it easy to share ideas and experiences. DAYHA recognizes this; however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where youth participants are involved.
- Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to their personal social media page.
- To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up and players and parents may join (i.e., "friend") the official organization or team page and coaches can communicate to players through the site. All posts, messages, text, or media of any kind between coach and player must be non-personal in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.

**E-Mail, Text Messaging and Similar Electronic Communications:**

- Coaches and players may use e-mail and text messaging to communicate. All e-mail and text message content between coach and player must be non-personal in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.
- E-Mail and text messages from a coach to any single youth player must include a copy to the player's parents.
- Where possible, a coach should be provided and use the organization web site e-mail center for all communications with the team and players.

**Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communications or Imagery with a Player:** Following any written request by the parents or legal guardians of a youth player that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults in the Association, the organization, team and coaches and administrator shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.

**Abuse and Misconduct:** Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by coaches, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or players will not be tolerated and are considered violations of the DAYHA Code of Conduct.

**Reporting Misconduct:**

- Infractions of DAYHA's Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to DAYHA's Safesport coordinator.
- A DAYHA participant, coach, volunteers, administrator, official, or parent of a participant who violates this Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, expulsion and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

**Oversight Responsibility:** The DAYHA Board of Directors has oversight and ultimate responsibility for the Social Media, Mobile & Electronic Communications Policy.