



**LITTLETON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
Littleton Hawks and Colorado 14ers**

**Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy
2025-2026 Season**

The following provisions apply to participation in hockey programming with Littleton Hockey Association (“LHA”).

LHA understands that social media is a popular communication tool for players, parents and coaches. LHA is also aware that social media is a venue where inappropriate behavior and misconduct can occur. The risks associated with social media include, but are not limited to, inappropriate access, sharing personal information, bullying, unwanted and unsupervised contact between adults and children, receiving unwanted material, online grooming for sexual abuse or actual unlawful sexual exploitation.

As part of LHA’s emphasis on safety, communications involving players, and especially minor players, 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 crucial. 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 minors. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Social Media and Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

Text Messaging, Email and Similar Electronic Communications

Coaches, team managers, and other LHA designees (collectively “Applicable Adults”) may use text messaging and email to communicate with players and parents.

The following provisions apply to all electronic communications:

- All electronic communication originating from Applicable Adults to players must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about LHA or team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.
- Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult needs to communicate directly with a player via electronic communications (including social media), the player’s parent or guardian **must** be copied.

- If a player communicates to the Applicable Adult privately first, the Applicable Adult must copy the player's parent or guardian on any response issued by the Applicable Adult.
- When an Applicable Adult communicates electronically to the entire team, the Applicable Adult must copy another adult on the communication.
- Applicable Adults, players and parents must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication.
- The electronic communication must not include or contain offensive, sexual or inappropriate language, photos or images.

Social Media (Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Blogs and Similar Sites)

Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. LHA recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where players are involved. The following provisions apply to social media:

- Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube or any other similar social media application.
- To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up and players and parents may "friend," follow and/or join the official organization or team page. Coaches can communicate to the team through that site.
- All electronic communication of any kind between an Applicable Adult and a player, including the use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes.
- Players, parents and coaches are **never** to post pictures of other players that can be hurtful or embarrassing.
- Players, parents and coaches are **never** to post pictures of other players without their permission.
- Protecting the identity and privacy of all LHA players is required. Do not post names or identifying information at any time without permission.
- Social media sites should not be used to abuse or criticize the organization, members or players.
- Social media usage must not include or contain offensive, sexual or inappropriate language, photos or images.

Social Media and Group Chats Among Players

Minor hockey players often create group chats through texting or other social media applications. Such group chats are of particular concern because minors may engage in bullying behavior, sexual misconduct, harassment, threats, discriminatory conduct, and other inappropriate conduct that may violate policies of USA Hockey and/or LHA.

Due to a player's membership in USA Hockey and participation and LHA activities, any social media usage or electronic communication by a player is potentially subject to USA Hockey SafeSport Program provisions and/or LHA Code of Conduct provisions, regardless of whether such social media usage or electronic communication occurred on an official organization or team page, and regardless of whether such electronic communication occurred in a LHA-sanctioned group chat.

Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communications with Player

Following receipt of a written request by a parent or guardian of a minor player that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by coaches or other Applicable Adults, LHA shall immediately comply with such request.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

LHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, hazing and other types of misconduct. LHA has a **zero tolerance** position when it comes to player safety and preventing abuse and misconduct.

Any breach of the Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion from LHA with no refund.

Any misconduct, abuse or violation should be immediately reported to the appropriate LHA segment leader, the LHA Hockey Director, the Colorado 14ers Director and/or the LHA Disciplinary Committee.

Acknowledgment

By registering online and/or by signing below, I certify that I have read and understand this Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy, and that I agree to abide by all procedures and policies set forth by LHA.

Player Signature: _____ **Date**

Parent 1 Signature: _____ **Date**

Parent 2 Signature: _____ **Date**