



Electronic Communications Policy

As part of the USA Hockey's emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, 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 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 provide potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Electronics Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

All electronic communication between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of all any allowed electronic communication. 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

Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. USA Hockey recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where minor participants are involved. 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 and players and parent may join the official organization or team page and coaches can communicate to players through the site. All electronic communication between coach and player, including use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes. Inappropriate postings should be reported to the SYHA executive Board.

Email, Text Messaging and similar Electronic Communication

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 purposes of communicating information about team activities. Email and text messages from a coach to any minor participant **must** include a copy to the player's parents. Where possible, a coach



should be provided and use the organization website email center for all communications with the team, players and player's parents, where applicable.