



## Houston Junior Aeros Hockey Association, Inc.

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### Social Media, Mobile, and Electric Communication Policy

As part of the emphasis on participant safety, the **Houston Junior Aeros Hockey Association, Inc.** (the "Junior Aeros") wishes to ensure that communications involving our minor participants are appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among administrators, coaches, team managers, volunteers, players, and Junior Aeros families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility of improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The Junior Aeros expects that adherence to the overall guidance of this Policy is expected to help reduce these risks.

#### **Email, Text Messaging, Social Media, and Other Electronic Communications**

Administrators, coaches, team managers, volunteers, and players may use email, text messaging, social media, and other similar electronic means to communicate.

All such electronic communication must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team-oriented motivational purposes; provided, however, in any event, that coaches are prohibited from having players joined to their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application. The content of all such authorized communications should be readily available to share with the public or families of those exchanging communications.

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 or legal guardian.

#### **Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communications with Player**

Following receipt of a written request by the parents or legal guardians of a minor player that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by Junior Aeros administrators, coaches, team managers, or volunteers, such Junior Aeros representatives shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions.

## **Abuse and Misconduct**

Any use of the above-reference electronic communications means to commit abuse or misconduct (e.g. emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, hazing, etc.) by any Junior Aeros administrator, coach, parent, volunteer, or player will not be tolerated, is considered a violation of USA Hockey's SafeSport Program, and will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action including, but not limited to, suspension, permanent suspension, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

## **Reporting**

Reports of any actual or suspected infractions or violations of this Policy may be reported to the **Junior Aeros SafeSport Representative** as set forth on the Junior Aeros's website or to **USA Hockey** at **SafeSport@usahockey.org** or **1-800-888-4656**.