

WETT SWIM CLUB SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

Electronic Communication Guidelines for Athlete Safety

Athlete Responsibilities

Minor athletes are not required to engage in sustained conversation with any non-related adult in a one-on-one online, electronic, or social media situation. Should an athlete receive contact from an unrelated adult, the athlete must either include their legal guardian in subsequent communications or choose not to respond at all.

Non-related adult – refers to club coaches, volunteers, other parents.

Communication Protocols

All electronic communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must remain professional and must not occur on a one-on-one basis. This standard applies to communications between adult athletes and minor athletes as well, to prevent confusion and avoid any imbalance of power. Any communication with team athletes, whether minor or adult, should always include the athlete's guardian to act as a witness and regulator.

Openness and Transparency

Except in cases of emergency, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic means, including social media, the athlete's legal guardian must be copied on the communication. If a minor athlete initiates a private electronic message to an Applicable Adult, the Applicable Adult must copy the legal guardian of the athlete in any response. When communicating electronically with the entire team, the Applicable Adult must copy another adult to ensure transparency.

Requests to Discontinue Communication

Legal guardians may submit a written request to your club's SafeSport coordinator, that their minor athlete not be contacted electronically by the club, Local Swim Committee (LSC), or any Applicable Adult subject to this policy. WETT will try to comply to the best of our ability with such requests, refraining from contacting the minor athlete via electronic communication or including them in social media posts, except in emergency circumstances.

Permitted Hours for Communication

Electronic communications should only be sent between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless there are emergency circumstances or the athlete is traveling for competition.

Prohibited Electronic Communication Practices

Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes. They must not accept new personal page requests from minor athletes unless the page is a fan page or the contact is considered celebrity contact. Any existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may "friend" the club or LSC's official page, but Applicable Adults must not send private, instant, or direct messages to minor athletes through social media platforms.

If an unrelated adult needs to communicate with an athlete, the legal guardian must be included and addressed directly regarding the subject of the conversation. Underage athletes cannot make decisions without their legal guardian being informed and aware of the commitment involved.