

Electronic Communication Policy of Rockford Riptide

PURPOSE

Rockford Riptide recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Our primary method of communication to parents and membership will be electronic.

Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary method of communication. While there is value of these methods of communication, the Club realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

Communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete should be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with swimmers is Transparent, Accessible and Professional.

Athletes and their parents should also follow these guidelines and remain professional in their communications with coaches and other club employees.

TEXTING

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during reasonable hours of the day. Texting shall only be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities.

EMAIL

When coaches communicate with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach, the Team Administrator, or Board Members should be copied.

FACEBOOK, MYSPACE, BLOGS, AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches are not to have any athlete member of the Club (with the exception of coach family members and employees who are also athletes) join their personal page as a "friend." A coach should not accept any "friend" request from an athlete.

Coaches and athletes are not permitted to private message each other through Facebook or similar manner. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "instant message" each other through Facebook chat or other IM method.

Riptide will have an official Facebook page for monitored posting and communications and updates on team-related matters.

Twitter etc are also to be used in a professional manner. Please help us to keep our club's communication within the acceptable guidelines, for the safety and comfort of all.

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