



STINGRAYS Safe Sport Policies

[LINK TO ALL SAFE SPORTS POLICIES](#)

Video/Photography

Stingrays may wish to take photographs or film (individual and in groups) of swimmers under 18 that may include your child during their club membership. All movies and photos will be taken and published per club policy. By registering for the team or any RAYS-hosted meet, you consent to the use of photography and filming.

If you wish not to have your child's photographs published, you must indicate this in writing to Coach Ian Goss via email at coachian@stingraysswimming.com no later than one week after submitting your registration to the team.

Electronic Communication Policy of Stingrays Swimming

PURPOSE

Stingrays Swimming (the "Club") recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media today. Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

Communication between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional and communicate information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

For example, as with any communication with an athlete, electronic communication should not contain or relate to any of the following:

Drugs or alcohol use.

sexually oriented conversation; sexually explicit language; sexual activity

the adult's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems; and

inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures

Note: Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationships or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible, and professional.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, or parent, the guiding principle to always use in communication is to ask: "Is this communication something that someone else would find appropriate or acceptable in a face-to-face meeting?" or "Is this something you would be comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient of your communication in front of the intended recipient's parents, the coaching staff, the board, or other athletes?"

A simple test that can be used in most cases is whether electronic communication with swimmers is Transparent, Accessible, and Professional.



Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should be clear and direct and free of hidden meanings, innuendo, and expectations.

Accessible: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of the Club's records. Whenever possible, include another coach or parent in the communication so there is no question regarding accessibility.

Professional: All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of the Club. This includes word choices, tone, grammar, and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

If your communication meets all three of the T.A.P. criteria, then your method of communication with athletes is likely to be appropriate.

SOCIAL MEDIA SITES

The Club has an official Facebook page where athletes and their parents can "friend" for information and updates on team-related matters. Coaches who have personal Facebook (or other social media site) pages should avoid direct communication with athletes, either through private messages and/or chat features. In addition, the coach should remind the athlete that this is not permitted. Coaches are encouraged to set their pages to "private" to prevent athletes from accessing the coach's personal information.

X [TWITTER]

The Club has an official Twitter page that coaches, athletes, and parents can follow for information and updates on team-related matters. Coaches and athletes may follow each other on Twitter. Coaches cannot "retweet" an athlete's message post, and they are not permitted to "direct message" to each other through Twitter.

TEXTING

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting shall be used only to communicate information directly related to team activities.

EMAIL

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, email shall only be used to communicate information directly related to team activities. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent or another coach must also be copied.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through electronic communication.

Bullying Policy

Peer-on-peer abuse is against the USA Swimming Code of Conduct.

Any reports from swimmers of "bullying" (the bullying behavior may have occurred in person or via electronic communication and at any time, whether at practice or not) will be addressed with swimmers/groups.

The Lead Coach will record, investigate, and act upon the incident.



Reports involving anything of a physical nature have IMMEDIATE and stricter reactions: The Lead Coach will act immediately by talking to both children involved and their parents. There will be consequences ranging from suspension to a lifetime ban from the program.

Team Travel Policy

All parents are to be roomed with same-sex swimmers (no coach and swimmer rooms UNLESS the swimmer is a child of the coach / the coach is their parent – cannot have any swimmer in the room of an adult who is not their parent).

No swimmer will be in the coach's room or coach in the swimmer's room alone. Doors will be left open at all times if there is a need for swimmers and coaches to be in the same room.