



ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY

Stingrays is aware of its registered athletes' increased online communication and social media use. Given that our athletes use social media as their primary source of communication, the Club has established a policy for our athletes to use social media acceptably. This policy is essential for Stingrays to provide all athletes with a safe and positive environment. Stingrays is committed to providing such an environment for all its members.

ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY:

Each Stingray athlete must exhibit ethical and responsible conduct in all online communications and activities and respect the rights and privacy of all other Stingray athletes. Stingrays expressly prohibits cyberbullying or cyberstalking of any Stingrays athlete by any means or method, including but not limited to the use of Facebook, Text Messaging, Instant Messaging, X [Twitter], E-Mail, TikTok, and Snapchat. Cyberbullying and Cyberstalking are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

CYBERBULLYING:

Cyberbullying involves the use of electronic information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, harassing, intimidating, and hostile behavior by an individual or group through personal attacks or other means that harm others, whether intentional or not.

CYBERSTALKING: Cyberstalking involves using electronic information and communication technologies to communicate words, images, or language directed at or about a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person. Harassing, intimidating, and hostile mean any electronic communication that is perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, including race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, or disability, or any other characteristic related to athletic performance that a reasonable person should know under the circumstances:

1. will harm another athlete or substantially interfere with another athlete's performance or opportunities.
2. has the effect of hurting another athlete's emotional or psychological well-being.
3. has the effect of insulting or demeaning another athlete to cause disruption in or substantial interference with practice, any swim meet, or any other Stingray-related activity.
4. It creates a hostile environment for any athlete at any USA Swimming activity or swim meet.
5. substantially disrupts the training process or the orderly operation of any Stingray practice, workout, other events, or swim meets of any other club or high school.

**REPORTING:**

If cyberbullying or cyberstalking does occur, the incident will be dealt with promptly. Any athlete who is being bullied or stalked or is aware of any such bullying or stalking occurring is asked to talk to his or her parents or talk to a Stingrays coach. When an athlete talks to his or her parents or a coach, the athlete should also show the electronic communication that constitutes the incident to the parents or the coach. Safeguarding electronic communication as evidence of bullying or stalking will help Stingrays investigate any incident. While there is no time limit for reporting bullying incidents, reporting quickly allows the Club to address the situation immediately and stop the bullying. Upon receiving a report of cyberbullying or cyberstalking, Head Coach Ian Goss will commence an investigation of the incident. The investigation results may include but are not limited to immediate temporary suspension from the Club or immediate permanent expulsion from the Club.

Stingrays take cyberbullying and cyberstalking seriously, and all athletes and parents can be assured that Stingrays will support them when an incident is reported. This type of bullying and stalking is counterproductive to the team atmosphere and team spirit Stingrays wants to maintain and foster daily. Again, Stingrays is committed to providing our athletes with a caring and supportive environment.