

# Electronic Communication and Social Media Policy of the Tigard Tualatin Swim Club

## PURPOSE

The Tigard Tualatin Swim Club recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary method of communication. While TTSC acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, TTSC also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

## COMMUNICATION POLICIES

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must 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 Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP).

I. Content: All electronic communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

II. Open and Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of TTSC's records. Except in emergency circumstances, if an applicable adult (defined in USA Swimming's MAAPP) needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communication (including social media), the minor athlete's legal guardian must be copied. If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult privately first, the Applicable Adult must copy the minor athlete's legal guardian on any electronic response to the minor athlete.

When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, the Applicable Adult must copy another adult.

III. Requests to Discontinue: Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the club, LSC, or by an Applicable Adult subject to USA Swimming policies. TTSC will abide by any such request and the minor athlete will not via any electronic communication, or included in any social media post, absent emergency circumstances.

IV. Hours: Electronic communications must only be sent between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, unless emergency circumstances exist or during competition travel.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICIES**

Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are **not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes** and such Applicable Adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes, unless the Applicable Adult has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact as opposed to regular contact. Minor athletes may "friend" the Club's official page. Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes must not send private, instant, or direct messages to a minor athlete through social media platforms.