

## **Social Media Policy**

As part of USA Hockey's emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, is vital. Avonworth Hockey Club will use TeamSnap as its communication method.

However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Social media refers to the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. Please remember these tips when using social media as an outlet:

Think First--before you post anything, be aware that once it is posted it is available and viewable to anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world. The moment you put it into cyberspace, it is out of your control, even if you limit your access to your site. Is it something that you want your mother, father, grandparents, ESPN to see?

Freedom of Speech doesn't mean unlimited. Social networks sites are not a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions.

Be Aware of Liability--at all times, you are responsible for what you post on your own or other sites. You CAN be held liable for anything deemed to be copyright infringement, defamatory, libel or obscene.

Photos--DO NOT post pictures of others unless you get their permission.

For your safety NEVER post anything in relations to your home address, phone number, date of birth or other personal information. Always exercise caution posting where you will be.

## **Electronic Communication Policy**

All electronic communication between coach and players must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities and will be given to the entire team, there will be NO INDIVIDUAL COMMUNICATION. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication. All content between coaches and players should be readily available to share with the public or families of the player or coach. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication must also copy or include the player's parents. Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. USA Hockey recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where

minor participants are involved. Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application.