

USA/FCY Technology Policy

The Frederick County YMCA Swim Team 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 FCY acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, FCY also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

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 Code of Conduct regarding Safe Sport/Athlete Protection and the Applicable Adult must be copied in the communication.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, board member 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?"

TEXTING Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours from 8am until 8pm. Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities absent emergency circumstances.

EMAIL Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate between the hours of 8am and 8pm. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach, or a board member must also be copied absent emergency circumstances.

REQUEST TO COMMUNICATE AND DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS The Applicable Adult of an athlete must request their swimmers' email be placed onto the general email communication to receive emails from the coach. The Applicable adult of an athlete must request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communication.

Please note that swimmers are not permitted to use any recording devices in the locker rooms. If a swimmer uses apps like Snap Chat, Instagram, Twitter etc. in a derogatory manner, he or she is subject to suspension from the team.

PROHIBITED ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION 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. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may "friend" the club and/or LSC'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.

COACHES WHO DO NOT FOLLOW THE TECHNOLOGY POLICY ARE SUBJECT TO:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Written Warning
3. Serious violation/Final Written Warning (*May include suspension or separation without prior warning*)
4. Discharge/Termination of employment

Coaches Signature _____

Date _____