



Electronic Communication Policy

The Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club has established this Electronic Communication Policy to ensure that all communications between Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club staff members, volunteers and athletes is professional.

Effective communication concerning travel, training schedules and administrative issues among volunteers, coaches, athletes and their families is critical. 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 would-be offenders with unsupervised access to an athlete. The improper use of mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct and adherence to a policy for mobile and electronic communication reduces these risks. The purpose of this policy is to protect athletes.

Peer—Peer Misconduct

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit peer to peer acts of misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Due to the harmful nature of cyberbullying an offender may find themselves in criminal or civil court. Communication misconduct by parents or athletes will not be tolerated. Please see PPAC's Action Plan to Address Harassment and Bullying.

Coach—Athlete

It is recognized that communication between coach and athlete may involve electronic communication from time to time but in order to be transparent, all communication will have the child's parent copied.

Communication will be related to swimming and pertinent team related information.

- PPAC staff will not have any social media connections with any athlete and are discouraged from having social media connections with Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club parents.
- All communications, including texting and email, will be transparent and professional.
- Texting or emailing between PPAC coaches and athletes will be limited to 13 and older athletes participating in practices during the week with the head coach—parent will be copied so all communications are transparent and professional.
- Parents are asked to remind athletes that athletes will copy a parent on any text communication they make with their coach.
- Coaches of swimmers 12 and younger will not have swimmers' phone numbers in their phone. All communication will be done through the parent.
- Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club staff will not communicate anything inappropriate to any swimmer. This includes anything about drugs, alcohol, or anything of a sexual nature.
- Parents may request from the head coach that their athlete not be contacted in any form of communication, ie: phone, text, email, etc.

Consequences of violating this policy will be determined by the head coach. This can range from verbal warning, written warning, suspension, or termination for Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club. Any evidence of criminal activity will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement authorities and dismissal from Parkland Pirates Aquatic Club Staff