**Social Media and Electronic Communications** 

Private electronic communications between an Applicable Adult and a minor athlete present an opportunity for the Applicable Adult to initiate grooming behaviors that may lead to abuse. Just as one-on- one interaction between an Applicable Adult and a minor athlete must be observable and interruptible, any communications between an Applicable Adult and a minor athlete should be open, transparent. Additionally, electronic communications between an Applicable Adult and a minor athlete must involve the minor’s legal guardian and take place during reasonable hours.

* **Content** All electronic communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.
* **Open and Transparent** Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needsto communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including socialmedia), the minor athlete’s legal guardian must be copied. If a minor athlete communicates to the
* **Private electronic communication**
	+ When an Applicable Adult communicates to one athlete, they must copy the minor athlete’s legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minorathlete.
	+ When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to theentire team, said Applicable Adult must copy another adult.
* **Requests to Discontinue** Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any formof electronic communication by the club, LSC or by an Applicable Adult subject to this Policy. Theorganization must abide by any such request that the minor athlete not be contacted via electroniccommunication, or included in any social media post, absent emergency circumstances.
* **Hours** Electronic communications must only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unlessemergency circumstances exist, or during competition travel.
* **Prohibited Electronic Communication** Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private socialmedia connections with unrelated minor athletes and such Applicable Adults are not permitted toaccept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes, unless theApplicable Adult has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact as opposed to regularcontact. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletesmay “friend” the club and/or LSC’s official page.Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes must not send private, instant or directmessages to a minor athlete through social media platforms.