



Policy Name: Social Media Policy

Policy Number: SMP201912

Adopted: 08/25/2017

Revised: 12/05/2019

Policy:

As part of Central Ohio Rowing's emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between an adult and minor athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. All electronic communications between a coach and a minor athlete should include another adult and/or the minor athlete's parent or guardian.

Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing). Such communications by coaches, staff, volunteers, administrators, officials, parents or athletes will not be tolerated and are considered violations of our Participant Safety Handbook.

Electronic communications and use of social media should consider:

Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), another Applicable Adult or the minor's legal guardian will be copied.

If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult should respond to the minor athlete with a copy to another Applicable Adult or the minor's legal guardian.

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

Minor athletes may "friend" the organization's official page.

As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the minor athlete's family. At the request of a parent or guardian, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication will copy or include the minor athlete's parents or guardians.

FACEBOOK, MYSPACE, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may not have athletes of Central Ohio Rowing's teams join a coach's personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official Central Ohio Rowing page and coaches can communicate to athlete members through the site. All posts, messages, text or media of any kind between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team---oriented motivational purposes.



TWITTER, INSTANT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR MEDIA

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re---tweet" athlete message posts without permission of the athlete. Coaches should use best judgment and professionalism in the content of their public media posting.

All direct posts and messaging between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

E-MAIL AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

Where the coach is a staff member, e-mail from a coach to any athlete should come from the Central Ohio Rowing e-mail service (the coach's return email address will contain "@Central Ohio Rowing.org").

TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes. All texts between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. All electronic communications between a coach and a minor athlete should include another adult and/or the minor athlete's parent or guardian.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY

From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other publicly obtainable images of the athlete – individually or in groups – may be taken. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in Central Ohio Rowing videos or publications, posted on Central Ohio Rowing or Central Ohio Rowing associated websites or offered to the Central Ohio Rowing athlete families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of Central Ohio Rowing to allow such practices, as long as the athlete or athletes are in public view and such imagery is both appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and

SportsEngine

The SportsEngine app is the primary method of communication from coaches to rowers and parents. SportsEngine allows the members Central Ohio Rowing to access all the team's information and to have instant communications (text, voice and video chats) between one another on their mobile devices. Coaches can make announcements or changes on the go and can send instant messages to players and parents. Parents can feel secure knowing that they haven't missed a schedule change and can coordinate with the coach and other parents through group messaging. The app protects your privacy because only coaches, players and family members have login access. All SportsEngine contact between coach and athlete must be professional and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.



Central Ohio Rowing. Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in Central Ohio Rowing's Participant Safety Handbook or the Athlete Partnership Agreement.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY

The parents or guardians of a minor athlete may request, in writing, that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches, including the communication of photography or videography of that athlete's imagery. Central Ohio Rowing will grant such requests in writing.

VIOLATIONS

Violations of Central Ohio Rowing's Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to the Director of Rowing or a member of Central Ohio Rowing's Board for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under Central Ohio Rowing's Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.