



## Electronic Communications & Social Media Policy and Guidelines

As part of Tallahassee Juniors emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

**As with any communication, the content of any electronic communication should be readily available to share with the 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 athlete's parents or guardians.**

Playing and competing for Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club (TJVBC) is a privilege. Student-athletes at TJVBC are held in the highest regard and have the responsibility to portray their club, team and themselves in a positive manner at all times.

Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of student-athletes at TJVBC in one form or another. Student-athletes should be aware that third parties – including the media, TJVBC coaches, college coaches and future employers – could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, posts and comments. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, the team, and TJVBC as a club, and can also be detrimental to a student-athlete's future opportunities, in volleyball and beyond.

Coaches may not have athletes of Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Team 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.

Coaches and athletes may "follow" each other. Coaches cannot "re-tweet" athlete message posts. All posts between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, posts or comments showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco. e.g., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.

- Pictures, videos, posts or comments that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another club; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another club or school and derogatory comments against race, sexual orientation, and/or gender).
- No posts should depict or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & CONSEQUENCES FOR TJVBC ATHLETES**

If a student-athlete's profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors, he/she will be subject to the following penalties:

1. Verbal and/ or written warning
2. A meeting with Head Coach and Club Directors
3. Penalties as determined by TJVBC, including but not limited to possible suspension or release from her team.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites:

- Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of young people.  
Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Facebook applications.
- If you do engage in posts or comments related to TJVBC, never act in a derogatory manner towards any team, coach or athlete and avoid personally-identifiable information that could put you or others at risk.

## **EMAIL 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 and/or volunteer, email from a coach to any athlete should come from the club website email center

## **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.

## **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 club videos, posted on club or club associated websites, or offered to the club families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. It is the default policy of Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club 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 the club. Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Participant Parent Handbook.

#### **REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY**

- The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches (photography or videography).

#### **MISCONDUCT**

- 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.

#### **VIOLATIONS**

- Violations of Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Electronic Communications and Social Media Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, a Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club administrator for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed under Tallahassee Juniors Volleyball Club Disciplinary Rules and Procedure.



## Electronic Communications & Social Media Policy and Guidelines

### Signature Page

Please sign this page and return to  
Latoya Washington or Susan Atwood.  
Retain Policy and Guidelines for your  
information.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Parent Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature of Receipt

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Date of Receipt

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Printed Coach's Name

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Coach Signature of Receipt

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Date of Receipt