



## Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy

Net Force Volleyball Club recognizes the presence and prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Social media plays a part in the everyday lives of our coaches, administrators, athletes and their families and can be an effective tool for communication in college recruiting, club communication, and social settings. That being said, Net Force Volleyball Club recognizes that there are potential risks involved in internet based communications between members of our club.

As part of Net Force Volleyball Club's emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communication information about club and 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 the staff/coach will copy or include the athlete's parent or guardians.**

### FACEBOOK, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Coaches may not have athletes of Net Force Volleyball Club join a personal social media page. Athlete members and parents can friend the official Net Force Volleyball Club Facebook page. 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 club or team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.

### TWITTER, INSTAGRAM AND SIMILAR MEDIA

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 about team activities or for team motivational purposes.

### 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 club or team activities. At the request of a parent or guardian, any email, electronic text, social media or similar communication the staff/coach will copy or include the athlete's parent or guardians.

### TEXTING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes and coaches may use texting to communicate. Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during reasonable hours and shall be used only for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team or club activities.

### GENERAL CONTENT

The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Volleyball Code of Conduct and Net Force Volleyball Club ethical practices. Examples of communication forbidden under said codes include communications that contain or relate to any of the following:

- Drug or Alcohol use
- Sexually oriented conversations; sexually explicit language, sexual activity
- The/An adult's personal life, social activities, relationships or family issues or personal problems
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures
- Note: Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional. Coaches are encouraged to review any items of question with the club director for additional direction.

#### REQUESTS TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parent or guardian of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communications. Immediate compliance without repercussion must be granted.

#### MISCONDUCT

Social media and electronic communications can 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 policy

#### VIOLATIONS

Violations of Net Force Volleyball Club's Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy should be reported to the club director for immediate investigation and evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed following the appropriate procedure.

A USA Volleyball participant or parent of a participant who violates this policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.