

New Hartford Aquatics

Athlete Agreement regarding public media, social networks, email, texts, and all other forms of electronic communication

New Hartford Aquatics strives to promote a healthy and safe experience for all student-athletes, coaches, staff, other USA Swim teams, officials and fans. Social media and electronic communication can create a challenge to accomplish this endeavor.

Although social media and electronic communication can be used in a creative, productive and safe way, there are concerns that come with its use. Most concerns arise from using these platforms in inappropriate and irresponsible ways. We are asking for your assistance and understanding in limiting its' negative impact, and to make you aware of potential consequences that can arise from misuse.

Athletes must remember that everything is visible in emails, texts and on social media networks. Athletes will be held responsible for any actions that are deemed inappropriate, that compromise the integrity of the club and or their sport, as well as any behaviors that violate federal and state law, New Hartford Central School and or USA Swimming rules and regulations. For example, photos or statements placed on social networks or sent through texts or emails that depict harassment (including sexual harassment), vandalism, consumption of alcohol in violation of USA Swimming's Code of Conduct, hazing, selling, possessing or using controlled substances can be used by New Hartford Aquatics administrators, including designated club personnel, in connection with athlete conduct code proceedings and club decisions regarding athletic participation. Posting or sending derogatory, distasteful, threatening or hostile statements whether directed at individuals, teams or programs (ie. coaches, teams, students, administrators, staff, fans or athletic officials) can result in charges being filed against you by New Hartford Aquatics Swim Club Inc.

Any inappropriate or distasteful content (i.e. comments, pictures, etc.) displayed in social media or electronically, whether intended to be harmless or not, can result in consequences up to and including dismissal from the team for that season and potentially for life. This agreement applies to all athletes and non-athlete members.

The online community is open to all and therefore anyone can access any personal information that you may post. Personal information includes photos, contact information, etc.

Please remember the following:

- 1.) Even if content is posted for a day or two, it remains accessible to everyone even if you take it down or change it. You have even less control once you email or text content.
- 2.) New Hartford Aquatics coaches and administrators, staff, parents, your parents' neighbors, future employers, potential colleges and local law enforcement have access to these social networks and may access information and monitor them as they see fit. You should have no expectation of privacy on social networking sites even if you think communication is sent "privately".
- 3.) Athletes should be aware of who they make their "friends" on these sites. These "friends" may try to take advantage of student-athletes or take advantage of a student-athlete's particular team.
- 4.) Athletes could face discipline and even dismissal for violation of club policy. In addition, this requires disclosure to USA Swimming transfer paperwork and can effect eligibility at another club or collegiate team should you decide to transfer.
- 5.) False statements made about someone may result in a legal claim.
- 6.) Posted information can be used as part of a criminal proceeding.

Use social network sites and electronic communication appropriately, with caution and in good taste.

Name _____

I have been given the opportunity to read this agreement and understand the following:

(Initial)_____ I understand the agreement and regulations of the New Hartford Aquatics Swim Club pertaining to public media, social networks, email, texts, and all other forms of electronic communication.

(Initial)_____ I understand that if I violate this agreement I will be subjected to sanction up to and including suspension or removal from New Hartford Aquatics for the current season and potentially life.

Signature _____ Date _____