

Sheridan Swim Team

I am the STORM

Electronic Communication & Privacy Policy

Purpose:

Sheridan Swim Team (the Team) recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Most of our parents, coaches, and athletes use these as their primary means of communication. While the Team acknowledges their value, these methods of communication also present certain risks especially in instances where adults and minors use these to communicate.

General:

All communications between a coach and/or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and regarding Team or Team related activities. The content and intent of all electronic communication must adhere to USA Swimming's Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

For example, as with any communication with an athlete, electronic communication should not contain or relate to any of the following:

- Drug or Alcohol use;
- Sexually oriented conversation; sexually explicit language; sexual activity
- The adult's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems;
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures;

Note: Communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible, and professional.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, board member, or parent, the guiding principle in electronic communication should be: "Is this communication something that someone else would find appropriate or acceptable in a face-to-face meeting?" or "Is this something you would be comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient in front of the recipient's parents, other coaches, the board, and/or other athletes?"

Transparency, Accessibility, and Professionalism are key to successful and safe communication between adults and minors. Communication should be clear and direct, and free of hidden meanings, innuendo, and expectations. Whenever possible, "two-deep" communication should be used (ex: CC'ing a board member, head coach, or other relevant parties in an email). With athletes, utilizing group messaging so that information widely circulated and easily accessible. Finally, to the best of all party's ability, professional courtesy and integrity should be considered. This includes word choice, tone, grammar, and subject matter.

When these expectations are met, safe and meaningful communication with athletes can be assured.

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, Blogs, and Other Such Sites:

Coaches may have personal Facebook (or other social media) sites, but they are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Team join their personal page as a "Friend". A coach should not accept any "Friend" request from an athlete. In addition, the coach should remind athletes that it is not permitted. Coaches and athletes should not "Private Message" through Facebook or other social media.

The Team's official Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/SheridanSwimTeam/>. Swimmers, parents, and family members are encouraged to "Like" our page!

The Team's official Instagram can be found under: Sheridan Storm Swim Team. Swimmers, parents, and family members are encouraged to follow us there!

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Texting:

In cooperation with the general guidelines set out above, texting between coaches and athletes is permitted during hours when practices may be scheduled (5:15 AM – 9:00 PM). Texting will be used for the purpose of communicating Team related information (meets, practices, college prep, etc.)

Email:

Similar to texting, emails between coaches and athletes will be permitted during hours when practices may be scheduled (5:15 AM – 9:00 PM). Emails between coaches and athletes will always include other athletes, parent(s), and/or board member(s).

Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communications:

The parent(s) or guardian(s) of an athlete may request in writing that their child may not be contacted by coaches via any form of electronic communication.

Privacy:

As a member of the Team, you trust us with your personal information. We will never give out, publish, or distribute your personal information without your expressed consent.