

EDGE Swim Club Team Policies | Communication



The EDGE Swim Club recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. We also appreciate the ease in which social media and electronic communication can help communicate and relay important information! Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, and that these methods of communication are fun, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

We encourage all members to follow our official team social media pages on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for additional program information and fun!

With the intent to keep our communication as abundant, transparent, informative, and accessible as possible, while also creating a professional environment in which coach, athlete, and parent feel comfortable and safe, the EDGE has the following communication policies:

General Content

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection (article 304).

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

- drugs 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; and
- inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures

With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with swimmers is **Transparent, Accessible and Professional**.

Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should not only be clear and direct, but also free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.

Accessible: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of the Club's records. Whenever possible, include another coach or parent in the communication so that there is no question regarding accessibility.

Professional: All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of the Club. This includes word choices, tone, grammar, and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

Social Media

The following specified social media outlets and are policies are strictly enforced and all EDGE Swim Club members are expected to adhere to these policies. These policies are set up to establish the professional environment our team aspires to have, while also providing the framework for a safe environment for both the coach and the athlete. The following social media outlets are the most popular, but all social media outlets and applications follow these same guidelines: Coaches and Athletes are not permitted to follow one another and message one another through social media. E-mail and text are the only acceptable forms of communication regarding team matters, and following the TAP model described previously.

EDGE Swim Club Team Policies | Communication



Facebook

Coaches are not permitted to friend athletes on Facebook. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to like coaches on Facebook. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “direct message” or use the Facebook Messenger App to communicate with each other. The EDGE Swim Club has an official Facebook page that athletes and their parents can “like” for information and updates on team-related matters.

Twitter

Coaches are not permitted to follow athletes on Twitter. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to follow coaches on Twitter. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “direct message” each other through Twitter. The EDGE Swim Club has an official Twitter page that athletes and their parents can “follow” for information and updates on team-related matters.

Instagram

Coaches are not permitted to like athletes on Instagram. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to like coaches on Instagram. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “direct message” each other through Instagram. The EDGE Swim Club has an official Instagram page that athletes and their parents can “like” for information and updates on team-related matters.

Snapchat

Coaches are not permitted to be follow athletes on Snapchat. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to follow coaches on Snapchat. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to “snapchat” each other through Snapchat. The EDGE Swim Club does NOT have an official Snapchat page.

Texting

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours from 7am until 9pm. Texting only shall be used for communicating information directly related to EDGE Swim Club events, or related to a member’s participation on the EDGE Swim Club.

E-Mail

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate between the hours of 7am and 9pm. When communicating with an athlete through email, a parent, another coach, or a board member must also be copied.

Request to Discontinue All Electronic Communications

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

Best Practice, Recommendation, and Penalties/Consequences for Violations

EDGE coaches are encouraged to extend the practice of these policies when relating to athletes of other USA club member teams to uphold a professional and safe image of the EDGE Swim Club.

EDGE coaches aim to serve as mentors, role models, and adult figures in whom all EDGE swimmers feel they can trust. However, EDGE coaches are not guidance counselors and swimmers are encouraged to talk about any personal issues with trained professionals in addition to any confiding they may do with a swim coach. This is a path the swim coach will recommend as well. Any communication between a coach and athlete of an athlete’s personal nature must follow the **TAP** test. Failure to do so may result in either the dismissal of the athlete or the coach, or both, from the team.