



## Coach-Athlete Electronic Communications

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by Metro Aquatics staff. The organization will abide by any such request that the minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, or included in any social media post, absent emergency circumstances.

For the purpose of these protocols, a “team” is considered a complete group of athletes. This can be the entire training group (e.g., Sectional, Achievers), entire training sub-group (e.g., E.R.T., Select), an entire group at the same competition, or an entire group traveling on the same trip. It cannot be a more-subjective interpretation, such as “everyone lifting today” or “all the backstrokers.”

Coaches are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such coaches are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may “friend” Metro Aquatics.

### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND FEWER THAN A “TEAM” OF SWIMMERS**

1. All electronic communication from coaches to athletes must be professional in nature.
2. Absent emergency circumstances, if a coach needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), one of the minor athlete’s legal guardians must be copied.
3. If a minor athlete communicates to a coach privately first, said coach must copy the minor athlete’s legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minor athlete.
4. Electronic communications must only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless emergency circumstances exist or during competition travel.
5. Coaches are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such coaches are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may “friend” Metro Aquatics.
6. Coaches must not send private, instant or direct messages to a minor athlete through social media platforms.

### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN COACHES AND A “TEAM” OF SWIMMERS**

1. All electronic communication from coaches to athletes must be professional in nature.
2. When a coach communicates electronically to an entire “team,” said coach must copy another Metro Aquatics staff member.
3. If a minor athlete replies privately to a coach communication to an entire “team,” said coach must either (a) copy the minor athlete’s legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minor athlete, or (b) copy the entire “team” and another Metro Aquatics staff member on their response.
4. Text communications must only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless emergency circumstances exist or during competition travel.