



TEXAS GOLD SWIMMING GEORGETOWN

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

In today's society the use of electronic communication has not only become a means of quickly dispersing information, it is also a primary means of communication for many athletes. Texas Gold Georgetown recognizes the value of this method of communication. We are also aware of the associated risks that must be considered.

Content of Electronic Communication All electronic communications between a coach or another adult affiliated with Texas Gold Georgetown must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about the team.

The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection. Content of electronic communications from adults representing Texas Gold Georgetown or the athlete should not contain or be related to any of the following:

- Drugs or alcohol use
- Sexually oriented conversation, sexually explicit language, sexually explicit pictures, or sexual activity
- The adult's or athlete's personal life, social activities, personal problems, or inappropriate pictures.

All electronic communication from adults representing Texas Gold Georgetown or athletes should follow the principle: "Is this something you would feel comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient in front of parents, coaches, board members, or other athletes?"

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.

If your communication meets all three of the T.A.P. criteria, then it is likely your method of communication with athletes will be appropriate. FACEBOOK, MYSPACE, BLOGS, AND SIMILAR SITES Coaches may have personal Facebook (or other social media site) pages, but they are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Club join their personal page as a "friend." A coach should not accept any "friend" request from an athlete on their personal account. In addition, the coach should remind the athlete that this is not permitted. Coaches are encouraged to set their pages to "private" to

prevent athletes from accessing the coach's personal information. Coaches may have a Coach Facebook (or other social media site) page. They are permitted to have athlete members of the Club join their coach page as a "friend." Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "private message" each other through Facebook. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "instant message" each other through Facebook chat or other IM method. The Club has an official Facebook page that athletes and their parents can "friend" for information and updates on team-related matters.

TWITTER / INSTAGRAM

Texas Gold Georgetown has an official Twitter and Instagram page that coaches, athletes and parents can follow for information and updates on team-related matters. Coaches are not permitted to follow athletes on Twitter or Instagram. Likewise, athletes are not permitted to follow coaches on Twitter / Instagram. Coaches must set their personal account to private. Coaches and athletes are not permitted to "direct message" each other through Twitter or Instagram. TEXTING Communication is permitted with the guidelines of 'Content of Electronic Communication' listed above being implemented.

Texting is allowed between coaches and athletes during the hours from 7am until 9pm. Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities. Exception will be allowed to inform swimmers of last minute early morning practice changes.

EMAIL Communication is permitted with the guidelines of 'Content of Electronic Communication' listed above being implemented. Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate between the hours of 7am and 9pm. Exceptions will be allowed to inform swimmers of last minute early morning practice changes. SNAPCHAT / Online Interactive Games Coaches and swimmers are not allowed to Snapchat or play online interactive games together at any time. REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS Last Updated: 5/18/15 Board Review: May 2015 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. FCST Board and/or Head Coach can make a written request that all electronic communication be stopped between an athlete and a coach.