

WATERLOO SWIMMING ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION POLICY

PURPOSE

Waterloo Swimming (WLOO) recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary method of communication. While WLOO acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, WLOO also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

GENERAL CONTENT

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

GUIDELINES

1. There should be no direct contact through electronic means (email, text, Facebook, Twitter, or other social media outlet) between individual coaches and swimmers in swim lessons, Bronze 1, Bronze 2, and Silver 1. All communication at these levels should be between WLOO staff members and the swimmer's parent or guardian.
 - a. In the event that it is necessary for electronic communication to occur between a swimmer and coach at the above listed levels, it can only be done via email (no text messages or social media contact) and the swimmer's parents **MUST** be CC'd on the communication. If a swimmer contacts a coach via email without copying their parent the coach must immediately forward the email to the parent/guardian.

2. Coaches are not permitted, at any time, to be "friends/followers" of any athlete member of the Waterloo Swimming on any social media

site. If a swimmer elects to “follow” a coach on a site such as Twitter, the coach is obligated to remind the swimmer of the above policy and remove/deny the swimmer as a “friend/follower”.

a. EXCEPTIONS: Swimmers are permitted to "follow" the Waterloo Swimming's team Twitter and/or Instagram accounts. This account must be public knowledge to the entire team. Parents/guardians of current swimmers must be encouraged to follow the page.

3. Subject to the guidelines mentioned above, athletes and coaches may use texting to communicate. Texting only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to the team.

4. Subject to the guidelines mentioned above, athletes and coaches may use email to communicate. E-mailing only shall be used for the purpose of communicating information directly related to the team.

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.