

## AVHA Electronic Communication Policy

As part of Apple Valley Hockey Association's ("AVHA") emphasis on safety, communications involving any participant, and especially our minor participants, should be appropriate, productive, and transparent. Effective communication concerning travel, practice or game schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, administrators, players and their families is critical. However, the use of mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communications increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to participants. The improper use of social media, mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

All electronic communication between coach and player must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Coaches, players and all team personnel must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communication. All content between coaches and players should be shared with the public or families of the player or coach and are, thus, "non-personal in nature" as the phrase is used in this policy. If the player is under the age of 18, any email, text, social media, or similar communication must also copy or include the player's parents.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

AVHA Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to or connected through their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application. To facilitate communication, an official organization or team page may be set up and players and parents may join (i.e., "friend") the official organization or team page and coaches can communicate to players through that site. All electronic communication of any kind between coach and player, including use of social media, must be non-personal in nature, must include the parents of the participant and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities or for team oriented motivational purposes.

### **EMAIL, TEXT MESSAGING AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Coaches, team managers and players may use email and text messaging to communicate. All email and text message content between coaches/team managers and players must be nonpersonal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Emails and text messages from a coach or team manager to any minor participant must include a copy to the player's parents. Where possible, a coach should be provided and use the organization web site email center (the coach's return email address will contain "@organization.com") for all communications with the team, players, and player's parents, where applicable.

### **REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY WITH ATHLETE**

Following receipt of a written request by the parents of a minor player that their child not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults in the program, the local program, team, coaches and administrators shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.