ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

As part of CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM’s emphasis on athlete safety, all electronic communications between a Covered Individual and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The concept of two-deep leadership extends into cyber space. There should be no one-one-one online or digital activities between a Covered Individual and a minor/ward athlete.

Electronic communication with a minor/ward athlete should copy the athlete’s parent or guardian. If a minor/ward athlete communicates to the Covered Individual privately first, said Covered Individual should copy the athlete’s parent or guardian on the response.

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
Coaches may not “friend” or “follow” CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM athletes through the coach’s personal social media page(s) or account(s). Athletes may friend the official CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM page. Covered Individuals with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such Covered Individuals are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from athletes who are minors, unless the Covered Individual has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact vs. regular contact. Existing social media connections on personal pages with minor athletes shall be discontinued.

INSTANT MESSAGING, FACEBOOK MESSAGING, DIRECT MESSAGING, AND SIMILAR MEDIA
Coaches and athletes may “follow” each other. Coaches cannot “re-tweet” athlete message posts without permission of the athlete, or in the case of minors or wards, their parent or guardian. Coaches should use best judgment and professionalism in the content of their public media posting.

All direct posts and messaging between coach and athlete must be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities and shall copy parents/guardians as required herein.

EMAIL, TEXTING, AND SIMILAR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS
Athletes and coaches may use email or texting to communicate. All email content between coach and athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Parents or guardians must be copied on communications from a Covered Individual to a minor/ward athlete. Where the Covered Individual is a staff member, emails to any athlete should come from the CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM email service (the coach’s return email address will contain “@CHAPTER EMAIL SERVER.org”). Communications to an entire team need not be copied to all parents or guardians but must at a minimum be copied to another Covered Individual.

ELECTRONIC IMAGERY
From time to time, digital photos, videos of practice or competition, and other images of athletes – individually or in groups – may be taken by individuals designated by CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM specifically for that purpose. These photos and/or videos may be submitted to local, state or national publications, used in CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM videos or publications, posted on the CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM or CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM associated websites or offered to the CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM athlete families seasonally on disc or other electronic form. Such imagery must be
appropriate and in the best interest of the athlete and CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM, Imagery must not be contrary to any rules as outlined in CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM’s Sport Protection Handbook or other applicable CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM policies.

REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OR IMAGERY
The athlete, or the parents or guardians of a minor/ward athlete may request, in writing, that their child/ward not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches, and/or that photography or videography of their athlete not be taken or shared. CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM will abide by all such requests, absent emergency circumstances.

MISCONDUCT
Social media and electronic communications can also be used to commit misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment and hazing). Such communications by Covered Individuals or other CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM participants will not be tolerated and are considered violations of this Handbook.

VIOLATIONS
Violations of this policy must be reported to CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM pursuant to its Reporting Policy. Violations will be addressed under the Disciplinary Rules and Procedure and may result in the sanctions as set forth therein, including temporary or permanent suspension. Some violations may constitute physical or sexual abuse that must be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.