



## **Electronic Communication Policy of Palm Beach Juniors Volleyball Club**

Palm Beach Juniors Volleyball Club (PBJ) recognizes the presence and prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Social media plays a part in the everyday lives of our student-athletes and their families, and can be an effective tool for communication in college recruiting, club communication, and social settings. That being said, PBJ also recognizes that there are potential risks involved in internet communication between members of our club.

All communication between coaches and families, both student-athlete or their family members, must be professional in nature and strictly for the purpose of communicating team business. The content and intent of all electronic communication must adhere to the USAV Code of Conduct and the professional conduct expected of Palm Beach Juniors. To ensure this standard is being met, email communications between all stakeholders of PBJ must be through the SportsClub Management System. This system allows club administration to monitor communication and ensure it meets our high standards.

To further ensure the professionalism of communication, PBJ expects all email to be clear, direct and free of innuendo. Communication between coaches and players/parents is considered a record of the club. Wherever possible, parents should receive a copy of communication to/from coaches and student-athletes. At no time should communication contain or relate to drugs or alcohol use, sexually oriented or explicit language or activity. Communication should never relate to an adult's personal life, social activities or relationships.

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Similar Sites:

Coaches may have personal Facebook (or similar social media) pages but minor-age players should not request to follow coach's personal pages nor should coaches accept 'friend' requests to pages that include personal information of any kind. Coaches should remind players that this is not acceptable. Coaches and athletes should not communicate through private message software or IM chat software. Coaches are encouraged to set personal pages to 'private' to prevent athletes from accessing personal information of PBJ coaches.

Coaches will address social media in team meetings to ensure student-athletes are educated on the potential pitfalls of inappropriate content of player social media sites, including but not limited to college recruiting opportunities.

Social media presence designed to promote team bonding that includes the entire team, parents and club administration is allowed but will be closely monitored by club administration. At no time should behavior that is inappropriate or not compliant with the Palm Beach Juniors or USAV Codes of Conduct be included on social media tied to a coach, team or the club. At no time should these 'pages' include activity that is personal in nature, inappropriate for minors, and/or social activity outside the club business.

Inappropriate social media or electronic communication WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. Violations will be considered violations of the Palm Beach Juniors Code of Conduct and will be addressed through club administration or, as necessary, the Regional SafeSport officer for evaluation. Complaints and allegations will be addressed quickly and efficiently. Any participant, parent or coach that violates the social media policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.