



# West Haven Youth Hockey

PO Box 17453 West Haven, CT 06516

## **Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy**

As part of USA Hockey's emphasis on participant safety, communications involving our minor participants should be appropriate, productive, and transparent.. The improper use of mobile and electronic communications can result in misconduct. Adherence to the Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy helps reduce these risks.

### **Social Media**

Social media makes it easy to share ideas and experiences. USA Hockey recognizes, however, that social media, mobile and other electronic communications can be especially concerning where minor participants are involved. Coaches are prohibited from having players joined to their personal Facebook page or any other similar social media application.

### **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 non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. Emails and text messages from a coach to any minor participant **must** include a copy to parents.

### **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 by any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults, the local program, team, coaches and administrators shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.

### **Abuse and Misconduct**

Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any employee, volunteer, independent contractor or other participant of a USA Hockey Member Program will not be tolerated and are considered violations of USA Hockey's SafeSport Program.

### **Reporting**

Infractions of USA Hockey's Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy should be reported to the appropriate person as described in Section IV of this Handbook concerning reporting. A USA Hockey participant or parent of a participant who violates this Social Media, Mobile and Electronic Communications Policy is subject to appropriate disciplinary action including but not limited to suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

**Player's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Team:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature for Understanding of Policy:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_