

Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club

Social Media and Online Communication Policy

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Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club understands that advancements of technology are enabling new forms of social interaction and social media is a popular communication tool for players, parents and coaches. Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club is also aware that social media is a venue where inappropriate behavior and misconduct can occur. The following policies are meant to ensure the appropriate use of social media and online communication. This policy will complement the Ontario Volleyball Association's Person in Authority Code of Conduct.

Texting, Email and Similar Electronic Communications

If it is necessary for a coach or staff member to send a direct text message or email to a player, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The approved method of communication is through TeamSnap (direct message or email)
- A parent (or guardian) must be copied on all correspondence
- The communication must include the name of the sender, so it is clear as to whom or what organization is sending the message. Just using the number or email address for identification is not sufficient.
- It should be non-personal and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.
- It should never include or contain offensive, sexual, or inappropriate language or photos.
- The time of day and the number of messages sent should be considered. The Ontario Volleyball PIA outlines specific times that communication may occur.
- Records should be kept of every coach's current cell number and email accounts.

When a player feels the need to text or email a coach or staff member, the following guidelines must be followed:

- The approved method of communication is through TeamSnap (direct message or email)
- A parent (or guardian) must be copied.
- It should be sent only with information regarding the organization or team or Club activities.

Use of Cell Phones at Club and Team Events

- With the exception of communicating with parents with respect to pick-up or other team-related matters, athletes are not permitted to use cell phones at practices or team events unless the device is set up off-court for the purpose of filming game or practice footage as approved by the coaching staff. OVA rule 6.13 bans the use of cell phones on the team bench at all OVA events and all filming for match footage must be set up off court. It is strongly recommended that athletes leave their phones with their parent chaperone or team staff at tournaments to eliminate distractions during the tournament day.
- A player using their cell phone inappropriately on the team bench will be given one verbal warning; subsequent violations may result in that athlete being scratched for the duration of the game and/or tournament day.

Social Media (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Blogs and Similar Sites)

- Coaches are not to have contact with players on any social media site.
- Players are never to post pictures of other Club Members or players that can be hurtful or embarrassing or without their permission.
- The use of any device of recording or transmitting visual images is strictly prohibited in showers, restrooms, changing rooms or other areas where participants expect privacy.
- Protecting the privacy of all Belleville Ravens Volleyball Club players is required.
- Do not post names, photos or identifying information at any time without permission.
- Any time a player posts anything online where they are representing the Club (at a tournament, in Ravens gear, wearing the club logo) it must be appropriate and free from any forms of violence, sexual connotations, drug/alcohol use). Failure to comply will be a breach of policy and could result in Club and OVA sanctions.
- Players and parents can “friend or follow” the official Belleville Ravens social media accounts and coaches can communicate to players through the site. The communication must be open, transparent, and professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about the team or Club activities.
- Social media sites should not be used to abuse or criticize the organization, members, or players and can be grounds for suspension and/or dismissal