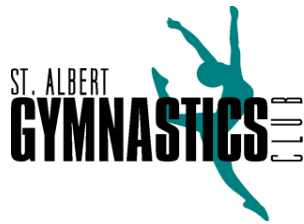


Appendix A - Leading Practices for Electronic Communications and Social Media Use

The following leading practices should inform policy and procedure relating to communication between Persons of Authority and Participants, consistent with SAGC's Electronic Communications and Social Media Use Policy.

Consistent with the Responsible Coaching Movement, all communication should be open, observable, and justifiable. Communication should respect the formal nature of the relationships between Persons of Authority and Participants and is subject to SAGC's Code of Conduct and Ethics.

- The means and associated expectations for how SAGC, coaches, and other Persons of Authority will communicate with Participants (and parents/guardians as appropriate) should be documented and communicated at the beginning of each season.
- Any Electronic Communications or Social Media interaction from SAGC, coaches, and Persons of Authority to Participants should be:
 - Necessary (time sensitive and/or specific to an athlete, and cannot be delayed until the next in-person meeting),
 - Administrative in nature (sharing a new Policy), and/or
 - Sport-specific (supporting Participant training and performance).
- When working with Vulnerable Participants communication should be directed to parents/guardians.
- If communicating directly with youth or other Vulnerable Participants, parents/guardians should be copied.
- Persons of Authority are discouraged from initiating personal and private Electronic Communications or Social Media activities with Participants. Contact initiated by Vulnerable Participants should be rejected and/or blocked.
- Use only SAGC approved Social Media Platforms, and only for public communication; avoid private messaging.
- Use virtual platforms (Zoom, MS Teams) only for scheduled events that are approved by SAGC. A minimum of one trained coach and one screened adult (preferably coaches) is recommended to be in attendance. Sessions should be recorded.
- The use of disappearing content platforms or content (Snapchat, Instagram Stories, Facebook Stories) should be avoided.
- All Electronic Communications and Social Media activity between Persons of Authority and Participants should be recorded and shared regularly with SAGC and parent/guardian, and/or made available upon request.
- All Participants are expected to interact in a positive, professional manner consistent with the SAGC's Code of Conduct and Ethics. All Participants should monitor their own Social Media content for consistency with the Code of Conduct and Ethics.
- Any Participant can choose not to engage with other Participants (including Persons of Authority) on Social Media. Participants should not be required to engage on Social Media platforms to access program or SAGC information.



- An individual who believes Electronic Communications and/or Social Media activity is inappropriate or may violate the SAGC's policies and procedures should report the matter as outlined in the SAGC's Discipline and Complaints Policy.
- Every person who has reasonable grounds to suspect that a Participant or Vulnerable Person is or may be subject to Maltreatment or abuse, including through Electronic Communications or Social Media use, must promptly report the suspicion and the information upon which it is based to local child protection services or the police.