

## **DEFSC Electronic Communications Policy**

DEFSC is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for members' physical, emotional and social development and ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. Effective communication concerning activities, schedules, and administrative issues among coaches, members and their families, officials, and volunteers is critical. However, the use of electronic communications (including mobile devices, web-based applications, social media, and other forms of electronic communication) increases the possibility for improprieties and misunderstandings, and also provides potential offenders with unsupervised and potentially inappropriate access to minor skaters. The improper use of electronic communications can result in misconduct. Accordingly, all members shall adhere to this Electronic Communications Policy at all times.

### **Social Media**

DEFSC maintains a website for the purpose of communicating non-personal information about club/skating related activities. This includes communication designed to show support of DEFSC members and their accomplishments, and for the promotion of DEFSC, its programs, and events.

All electronic communication of any kind between adults and minors, including the use of social media, must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about club/skating-related activities.

No contact information for any minor will be placed on the DEFSC website or any social media site established by DEFSC in the future.

### **Email, Text Messaging and Similar Electronic Communication**

All email and text message content between adults and minors must be non-personal in nature and be for the purpose of communicating information about club/skating activities.

Emails and text messages from any adult to any minor member must copy or include a parent. A parent may not grant permission to contact their minor without copying or including that parent. All electronic content between the adult and the minor should be readily available to share with the public or the families of the skater or coach/adult.

Coaches, skaters, and club volunteers must follow common sense guidelines regarding the volume and time of day of any allowed electronic communications.

### **Request To Discontinue All Electronic Communication or Imagery with Minors**

Following receipt of a written request by the parents of a minor that their child not be contacted by any form of electronic communication by coaches or other adults in the program, DEFSC and its members shall immediately comply with such request without any repercussions for such request.

## **Violations**

Social media and other means of electronic communication can be used to commit abuse and misconduct (e.g., emotional, sexual, 'sexting', bullying, harassment, and hazing). Such communications by any coach, skater, parent, volunteer, or other participant in any DEFSC activities will not be tolerated and will be considered violations of DEFSC's Athlete Protection Policy and the USFS SafeSport Program.

Violations of DEFSC's Electronic Communications Policy should be reported pursuant to DEFSC's Reporting Policy.