



Electronic Communications Policy

Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP)

Private electronic communications between an Adult Participant and a minor athlete present an opportunity for grooming behaviors that may lead to abuse. To reduce risk:

- One-on-one interactions must be **open and transparent**.
- Communications must involve the **minor's legal guardian**.
- Communications must occur only during **reasonable hours (5:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.)**.

This section of MAAPP replaces previous requirements for team social media/electronic communication policies. It is similar to USA Swimming's earlier Model Policy and Best Practice Guidelines.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If an athlete turns 18 and becomes an Adult Participant, can they still communicate with minor teammates?

A: Yes, if they:

- Do not have authority over the minor, and
- Are no more than four years older.

If they don't meet these conditions, they must follow the MAAPP electronic communication rules.

Q: How should an Adult Participant respond if they receive a call or text from a minor athlete?

A: Include the minor athlete's parent/legal guardian in the response, unless an exception applies.



Q: What does “Electronic Communication” include?

A: This includes, but is not limited to:

- Phone calls & video calls
 - Texts
 - Social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, WhatsApp, Snapchat, etc.)
 - Fitness apps
 - Emails
 - Direct messaging of any kind
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Q: Can our team still use our old Electronic Communication Policy instead of MAAPP?

A: No. All teams must adopt MAAPP’s Electronic Communications section in full.

Q: Can minor athletes follow their favorite celebrity swimmer on a fan page?

A: Yes, following or friending a celebrity swimmer’s fan page is permitted.

Q: What about pre-existing social media connections with minor athletes?

A: Adult Participants must discontinue those connections.

Q: When must a minor’s legal guardian be copied on a communication?

A: Any one-on-one communication from an Adult Participant with authority over minors must copy the legal guardian.

Q: How should an Adult Participant communicate with a group of minor athletes?

A: If sending to a group or entire team, another Adult Participant must be copied. It is not required to copy every legal guardian.



Q: What counts as an emergency circumstance?

A: An isolated, objectively reasonable emergency (e.g., last-minute cancellation of early practice). Emergencies do not remove the time restrictions except when absolutely necessary.

Q: Can teams change the 5:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. timeframe?

A: No.

Q: Can an LSC send communications to a committee with an athlete rep outside of those hours?

A: No. LSC staff and board members are Adult Participants and must follow the same 5:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m. rule.

Q: Can LSC or USA Swimming committees with minor athlete reps hold telephone or video meetings after 9:00 p.m.?

A: No. Calls and video conferences are considered electronic communications and may not occur between 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.

Q: Which time zone applies?

A: The time zone of the **minor athlete**.