

COMMUNICATIONS

Athletes may communicate with Persons in Authority on Electronic Communication and Social Media but must take precautions when doing so. Communication should be open and observable whenever possible. If it is not possible to have open and observable communication on a particular medium, athletes (who are under 18) should always inform their parents/guardians.

IDEAL PRACTICES

Competition Stream (High Performance Sport)

MEDIUM	ATHLETES 13-18	ATHLETES 19+
Email	Email coach when necessary. Stick to non-personal communication. Copy your parents/guardians.	Email coach when necessary.
Text	Text coach when necessary. Stick to non-personal communication. Include your parents/guardians.	Text coach when necessary.
Facebook	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable and necessary. All communication must be public. Inform parents/guardians.	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable. All communication must be public.
Instagram	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable and necessary. All communication must be public. Inform parents/guardians.	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable. All communication must be public.
Twitter	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable and necessary. All communication must be public. Inform parents/guardians.	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable. All communication must be public.
Snapchat	Do not follow coaches on Snapchat. Block follow requests.	Avoid following coaches on Snapchat.
TikTok	Do not follow coaches on TikTok. Block follow requests.	Avoid initiating contact. Accept requests if comfortable. All communication must be public.
Team Communication Platforms (TeamSnap)	Add Team/Coach when necessary. Stick to non-personal communication. Inform parents/guardians.	Add Team/Coach when necessary.



ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

Communication media that is primarily for connecting with other users without a content-sharing or social networking purpose. Electronic communication includes email, texting (SMS), Facebook messenger, video sessions, WhatsApp, virtual meeting platforms, and other similar applications.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Communication media that permits users to create or generate content, share that content, and network with other users. Social media includes YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Tumblr, TikTok, Snapchat, X (formerly Twitter), and other similar websites and applications.

PERSON IN AUTHORITY

A Participant who holds a position of authority within a Tennis Association including, but not limited to, coaches, managers, support personnel, supervisors, and Directors. There is typically a Power Imbalance between Persons in Authority and other Participants.

GUIDELINES FOR ATHLETES

- Set your privacy settings to restrict who can search for you and what private information other people can see.
- Coaches, teammates, officials, or opposing competitors may all add you to Facebook or follow you on Instagram or Twitter. You are not required to follow anyone or be Facebook friends with anyone.
- Avoid adding Persons in Authority to Snapchat and do not send snapchats to Persons in Authority.
- If you are under the age of 18, make sure that your parent/guardian is aware of any Electronic Communication and/or Social Media interactions that you have with your coach or another Person in Authority.
- If you feel harassed by someone in an Electronic Communication and/or Social Media interaction, report it to your parent/guardian, a Person in Authority, or to your Tennis Association.
- You do not have to join a fan page on Facebook or follow a X feed or Instagram account if you do not want to.
- Content posted or shared on Social Media, relative to your privacy settings, is considered Public Communication. In most cases, you do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy for any material that you post or share.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION & SOCIAL MEDIA – ATHLETES



- Content posted on Social Media is almost always permanent – consider that other individuals may take screenshots of your content (even snapchats) before you can delete them.
- Avoid posting pictures of, or alluding to, participation in illegal activity or banned substances such as: speeding, physical assault, harassment, drinking alcohol (if underage), smoking marijuana, etc.
- Model appropriate behaviour in Social Media befitting your status as a) an athlete, and b) a participant within your Tennis Association. As a representative of your Tennis Association, you have agreed to the Code of Conduct and must follow that Code when you post material and interact with other people through Electronic Communication and Social Media.
- Be aware that your public Facebook page, Instagram account, or X feed may be monitored by your coach or another Person in Authority, or by your Tennis Association. Content or behaviour on Social Media may be subject to sanction under the Code of Conduct.
- Do not take, share, or distribute photos or videos of any other athlete, coach, official, and/or Persons in Authority without consent from the individual(s). Doing so could result in sanctions under the Code of Conduct and/or Criminal Code (depending on the nature of the image).
- If you attend a video session, your video stream should show a neutral background (avoid bedrooms and bathrooms), focus on training/coaching, and be open and observable (not one on one).