



Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy for Indy Premier

1.0 PURPOSE

Fishers Soccer Club, Inc. d/b/a Indy Premier (“Indy Premier” or the “Club”) recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today’s world. Many of our student-athletes use these means as their primary method of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, Indy Premier also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

2.0 GENERAL CONTENT

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities and it is recommended to include the parents/guardians. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the US Youth Soccer Code of Conduct and Indy Premier Code of Conduct.

For example, as with any communication with an athlete, electronic communication should not contain or relate to any of the following:

- Drugs or alcohol use;
- Sexually-oriented conversation, sexually explicit language, sexual activity;
- The adult’s personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems; and,
- Inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures.
- Note: Any communication concerning an athlete’s personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent and professional.

Whether one is an athlete, coach, board member, parent, or volunteer, the guiding principle to always use in communication is to ask: “Is this communication something that someone else would find appropriate or acceptable in a face-to-face meeting?” or “Is this something you would be comfortable saying out loud to the intended recipient of your communication in front of the intended recipient’s parents, the coaching staff, the board or other athletes?”

With respect to electronic communications, a simple test that can be used in most cases is whether the electronic communication with athletes is **Transparent and Professional**.

Transparent: All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should not only be clear and direct, but also free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.



Professional: All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of Indy Premier. This includes word choice, tone, grammar and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

3.0 FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, BLOGS AND SIMILAR SITES

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, messaging is allowed between coaches and athletes.

Indy Premier has an official Facebook page that athletes and their parents can “like” or “friend” for information and updates on club related matters.

4.0 TWITTER

Indy Premier has an official Twitter page that coaches, athletes and parents can follow for information and updates on team-related matters.

5.0 TEXTING

Subject to the general guidelines mentioned above, texting is allowed between coaches and athletes.

6.0 EMAIL

Athletes and coaches may use email to communicate using the above criteria.

7.0 REQUEST TO DISCONTINUE ALL ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communications via the club Director of Communications.

8.0 VIOLATIONS

Violations of Indy Premier’s Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy should be reported to your immediate supervisor, the Chief Executive Officer of the Club, for evaluation of complaints and allegations.

An Indy Premier employee, athlete, parent of an athlete or volunteer who violates this policy can be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, including but not limited to: termination, suspension, permanent suspension and/or referral to law enforcement authorities.

Every NEW Employee shall receive Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy in Staff Handbook at start of employment and acknowledge.