

# **SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES – Lincoln Leapers**

## **General Team**

### **PURPOSE**

It is expected that all Members of Lincoln Leapers use social media responsibly and respectfully.

This includes public applications and media, but also private group chats and other types of media where players, volunteers, administrators, and other members of the Jump Rope community may be impacted.

The following guidelines are intended to aid Members using Social Media to ensure that outcomes are beneficial to the sport and to other Members and that they remain onside with the Social Media Policy.

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR ALL MEMBERS**

All Lincoln Leapers Members using social media should ensure that:

- a. They refrain from publishing any content that does not align with the core values of Lincoln Leapers, ORSO / RSC, and adhere to the Code of Conduct and Privacy Policy;
- b. Profiles and related content reflect a professional presentation to colleagues, members, volunteers, parents, and players of all ages;
- c. Social media posts do not tag or otherwise provide contact information for minors. Given/first names should only be used to identify minors in posts;
- d. Social media is not used to voice concerns or grievances with respect to Lincoln Leapers, ORSO, RSC, or other jump rope associations/organizations;
- e. They do not publish photographs, videos, or comments promoting negative influences or criminal behavior, including but not limited to drug use, alcohol abuse, public intoxication, or sexual exploitation;
- f. That principles of privacy, respect, integrity, and sportsmanship are observed when posting; and
- g. Conduct is appropriate, professional, and respectful at all times. Take time to consider what you are posting before it is too late!

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR CLUB ASSOCIATIONS**

Lincoln Leapers Club is responsible for ensuring all content hosted on their websites, social networks, message boards or blogs abide by the policies set forth by the Lincoln Leapers Organization and will also assume responsibility for reviewing responses to their online posts and resolving any concerns that may result.

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR THE TEAM**

The Lincoln Leapers have chosen to use **TeamSnap** as a hosting site.

This site can be very useful in practice times, tournament information, etc.

When using social media teams/athletes should keep in mind that:

- h. Although most players under the age of 18 do have personal email addresses, all official team communication from the Coaches and Managers should be sent to a parent/guardian email;
- i. No adult should communicate one on one with a player of minor age on any social media platform; and
- j. Players should be encouraged by coaches and parents to inform an adult they trust if they receive any communications that make them feel uncomfortable.

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR COACHES, OFFICIALS, & OTHER VOLUNTEERS**

Many volunteers deal with athletes under the age of 18.

Extra care must be taken with this age group to eliminate the risks of misconduct; or perceived misconduct.

*Unless a player/official/coach who is 18 years old or younger is a direct relation to a member, all Coaches, Managers, Officials, Trainers, and Club Association volunteers should generally:*

- k. Not accept anyone as a friend on social networking sites or share their **personal** social webpages with anyone under the age of 18;
- l. Not make contact with anyone outside of the jump rope context via any social networking media;
- m. Not send personal messages of a non-jump rope nature to anyone under 18;
- n. Not engage in any personal conversations or social comments;
- o. Seek permission from parents and athletes prior to posting pictures or videos publicly;
- p. Keep team selection decisions and other official team business off of social media;
- q. Never require athletes to join the team or organizational social media platforms; and
- r. Ensure that personal devices that have photo-taking functions are not in a dressing/change rooms.

### **BEST PRACTICES FOR ATHLETES**

Athletes must understand that publicly accessible content posted to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. as well as private team “group chats”, are captured under Lincoln Leapers Social Media policy.

Athletes can expect that all media may be monitored by other Athletes, a Club Association, Coaches, parents, and others.

Any negative content could therefore be subject to sanctions.

Athletes have signed a Code of Conduct and must be mindful to follow that Code when posting material and interacting with others through social media.

*Athletes should:*

- a. Set privacy settings to restrict who can search for you and what private information other people can see;

- b. Do not feel pressured to join a fan page, follow a feed or person or be “friends” with anyone. Coaches, teammates, officials, or opposing competitors may add you, but you are not required to do the same;
- c. Understand and abide by the rule that cell phones and/or other recording devices are NOT permitted in dressing/change rooms; and
- d. Model appropriate behavior on social media befitting your status as an athlete, a jump rope athlete, and a member of your Club association.

## **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS POLICY MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM – Lincoln Leapers**

### **Specific to Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete**

#### **POLICY APPLICATION**

The policy applies to ALL communications between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete.

#### **POLICY REQUIREMENTS**

Electronic communication includes but is not limited to phone calls, video calls, texts, social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, WhatsApp, Snapchat, etc.), fitness applications, emails, and direct messaging that occurs between an Adult Participant and Minor Athlete(s).

- Must be Open and Transparent.
  - » A parent/guardian, another adult family member of the Minor Athlete, or another Adult Participant must be copied or included on the communication.
  - » This includes all communication initiated by a Minor Athlete.
- Only electronic platforms that allow Open and Transparent communication can be used. **The Lincoln Leapers use exclusively TeamSnap for this platform only. All communication must flow through TeamSnap between adult participants (coaches/volunteers) and minor athletes.**
- All team communication or communications from an Adult Participant to more than one Minor Athlete must copy or include another Adult Participant, or all the Minor Athletes’ parents/guardians.
- All communication should be professional in nature.
- Organizations and Adult Participants must honor a parent/guardian’s request to discontinue communication with their Minor Athlete unless there is an emergency

#### **POLICY EXCEPTIONS**

If one of the following exceptions exists with appropriate consent, electronic communications are not required to be open and transparent.

- 1 | Emergency

2 | Dual Relationship – The Adult Participant has an existing relationship with a Minor Athlete outside of the sports program.

3 | Close-in-Age – The Adult Participant has no authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete.

4 | Personal Care Assistant – The Adult Participant is a Personal Care Assistant and has met all requirements.

## **COMMON QUESTIONS**

Is it against the Electronic Communications policy for a Minor Athlete to follow an Adult Participant on social media?

A: Yes. It is against the policy for a Minor Athlete to follow an Adult Participant on their **personal** social media. The Adult Participant should not accept a friend request from a Minor Athlete. The team's social media accounts (ex. Lincoln Leapers Instagram or Facebook) can have Minor Athletes join and follow the team. An Adult Participant cannot message a Minor Athlete individually but can in an open group message that is seen by all members on the team's account.

Can an Adult Athlete text their friend who is a Minor Athlete?

A: It depends. If that adult athlete is an Adult Participant, does not have Authority over the Minor Athlete, and is no more than four years older than the Minor Athlete, they can communicate one-on-one with the Minor Athlete. If they do not meet those requirements, they will need to copy another Adult Participant, the Minor Athlete's parent/guardian, or another adult family member of the Minor Athlete on the communication.

How should an Adult Participant respond if they receive a call from a Minor Athlete?

A: The Adult Participant should ensure that it is not an emergency situation, and then proceed to include another Adult Participant, the Minor Athletes' parent/guardian, or another adult family member of the Minor Athlete on the call if possible. If this is not possible, the Adult Participant should reschedule the call for a later time.