



Baldwin Hills Fastpitch Softball Association

Social Media and Electronic Communication Policies

OVERVIEW

Online, social media and other electronic communication tools such as text messaging have become a prevalent, convenient and effective means of personal and professional communication, and have fundamentally changed the way many people and organizations interact. This policy sets forth BHFS's expectations with respect to use of online and social media, as well as other forms of electronic communications, by all BHFS Board members, coaches, volunteers, parents, players, family and friends.

The term "social media" as used in this policy encompasses a wide array of online media and communications. For purposes of this policy, the terms "online media" and "social media" refer to internal and external websites, blogs, social networks (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat), wikis, video and photo sharing sites (e.g., YouTube, SKYPE, Flickr, Periscope), and other forms of personal online publishing and discourse. Policies regarding text messaging, email and individual telephonic communications are also covered by these policies.

Social media forums are typically public. Even when using social media for purely personal purposes, a person's public expressions might affect their professional identity and the organizational interests of BHFS and our members. Accordingly, anyone participating in social media must ensure that their participation is consistent with BHFS policies.

Both on and off the field, safety and youth protection should be a key focus. BHFS is committed to be an advocate for youth and to keep children and their privacy safe, both online and off. Safety is always at the forefront of any considerations where social media is concerned.

With these objectives in mind, all BHFS Board members, coaches, volunteers, parents and players must be familiar with and adhere to this policy, regardless of whether they personally use social media, and must share this policy with family members and friends as appropriate.

GENERAL POLICIES AND GUIDELINES

- Posting photographs or video of any child other than your own on any social media site is strictly prohibited without the express consent of the child's parent or legal guardian. It is recommended that if a team wants to share pictures and/or video, the team parent for the team set up a private site with controlled access, such as Shutterfly, where photographs can be posted and viewed by invited members. BHFS maintains the right to post photographs and/or video of league members on the BHFS website and BHFS social media sites to promote the best interests of the league.
- Posting negative comments about any BHFS Board member, coach, volunteer, parent, or player on any public social media site is strictly prohibited. All public commentary about BHFS, its volunteers, and its membership should be positive and respectful. If you have any doubt about whether an intended comment will violate this policy, the best option is to avoid posting it.

POLICIES FOR COACHES

- Coaches should not engage in private electronic communications with BHFS players (e.g., no private Facebook groups, direct messaging or private invitations to personal Facebook pages, invite-only YouTube channels, Twitter, etc.).
- Coaches should communicate with parents, legal guardians, or designated adults with respect to team activities. It is up to those individuals to make sure players are at practices and games.
- A coach may respond to a direct inquiry via text message or email from a player regarding logistics of practice times, cancellations, schedules, etc., but should include an adult as a co-recipient of any response.
- Coaches and team representatives should avoid cell phone conversations with players to the greatest extent possible. Any such conversations should be brief and restricted to BHFS matters. Should any such conversation take place, it is up to the Coach or team representative to contact the player’s parent or legal guardian and inform him/her of the communication.
- BHFS Board members, coaches, volunteers, etc., may not be “friends” on Facebook, or any similar medium, with a player.

VIOLATIONS OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The BHFS Board shall have the authority to monitor and enforce this Social Media Policy. The failure of any BHFS member to adhere to this Social Media Policy shall be considered a violation of the BHFS Code of Conduct, subjecting the violator to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of such individual’s involvement with BHFS, in accordance with BHFS disciplinary procedures.

My signature affirms that I have received and read a copy of the BHFS Social Media and Electronic Communication Policy. I agree to abide by the policy, and I understand that one parents signature binds the entire family of the player.

Parent/Guardian Name (printed)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Team Manager Signature

Date