

Electronic Communication Policy for Renegade Aquatics

Renegade Aquatics (the 'Club') recognizes the prevalence of electronic communication and social media in today's world. Many of our swimmers use these means as their primary methods of communication. While the Club acknowledges the value of these methods of communication, the Club also realizes that there are associated risks that must be considered when adults use these methods to communicate with minors.

All communication between a coach (or other adult) and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communication must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct.

With respect to electronic communication, coaches should implement the following principles:

- Coaches may have personal social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc), but they are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Club join as a 'friend' or 'follower.' Likewise, a coach should reject any friend request from their athletes.
- Coaches are not permitted to private message or instant message (IM, Skype) with any of their athletes.
- If the club has social media pages created, athletes and their parents can 'friend' the club for information and updates on team-related activities.
- Texting and email between coach and athletes should occur only between 7:00am and 9:00pm, and shall only be for the purpose of communicating information directly related to team activities.

The parents or guardians of an athlete may request in writing that their child not be contacted by coaches through any form of electronic communication.

Anti-Bullying Policy for Renegade Aquatics

Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at Renegade Aquatics (the 'Club') and will not be tolerated. It is counter-productive to team spirit and can be devastating to a victim. The Club is committed to providing a safe, caring and friendly environment for all of our athletes. If bullying of any kind does occur, incidents will be dealt with promptly. These incidents should be reported to a coach or parent immediately.

Simply put, bullying is the severe or repeated use by anyone (coach, parent, athlete) of verbal, written, or electronic communication or physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another individual that has the effect of: causing physical or emotional harm or damaging their property; placing the individual in reasonable fear of harm; creating a hostile environment; infringing upon others' rights.

Parents of athletes at Renegade Aquatics have the commitment of the coaching staff that this behavior will not be tolerated. If incidents are observed or reported, the staff will stop the activity immediately. Every incident will be investigated, evaluated, and appropriate intervention will be provided. A written record of every incident will be kept, and parents will always be notified.

Locker Room Policy

Renegade Aquatics practices Monday through Friday at the Baker Family Branch of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego. The facility has a changing area and bathrooms that are shared amongst the children attending the club, its staff member, Renegade athletes, and occasional parents (of both programs). There is a single outdoor shower room located on the pool deck, which can be shared by male and female swimmers. It should also be noted that deck changing is now prohibited; a swimmer must use a locker room or proper changing area.

Coaches and parents make every effort to recognize when an athlete leaves the pool in order to use the bathroom. If the child does not return in a timely fashion, someone will check on their whereabouts. While in the bathroom and changing areas, Renegade swimmers and parents should minimize their interactions with B&G club children, so as not to prevent them from returning to their inside activities.

Under no circumstances will the use of cell phones or other mobile devices with recording capabilities (including voice recording), cameras, or video recorders be used for any recording purposes (photo or voice recording) in any locker room, changing area, or showers. Failure to adhere to this policy can result in sanctions, up to and including expulsion from the Renegade program and being reported to local police or sheriff departments.

Photography Policy

In addition to the photo policy described above in the Locker Room policy, there are restrictions on when and where swimmers can be photographed or recording on a pool deck – either in practice or at meets.

For the protection and safety of our athletes, USA Swimming has banned any form of photography from behind the starting blocks. Swim officials are very cognizant of this area during meets. Parents should not be in the start area anyway (unless volunteering to time), but under no circumstances can they use a camera or cell phone while in the start area. Please note that this also applies to the opposite end of the pool if 8 & unders are starting their races at that side.

Please keep in mind that these policies exist for one reason only – the safety and protection of your children. Every Renegade parent and adult supporter is expected to understand and abide by these policies.

Media Release - Declination

It has become standard practice to promote via various forms of media, the most common being online social media. The team currently posts photos on our team website, and has accounts with Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. At all times, the protection and safety of the children will be paramount – and social media will be terminated if there is any threat to our children. The assumption will be that permission is granted to Renegade Aquatics, allowing it to use photos and video for purposes such as publicity, illustration, and advertising – without compensation. If you wish to have individual photos of your child(ren) not published, please complete this section and return to a member of the coaching staff.

I do NOT grant permission for Renegade Aquatics or its Booster Club to use *individual* photos of my child(ren) in any publications – print or social media. If signed below, every effort will be made to block any images from appearing in team advertising and internet websites and applications (apps).

Parent Signature: _____ Printed: _____ Date: _____