



USAYESS SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE CONDUCT AGREEMENT

USAYESS recognizes that social media and other forms of online communication are an important part of modern life. Student-athletes are encouraged to use these platforms responsibly, positively, and respectfully.

As a USAYESS athlete, I understand that my online conduct may reflect on me, my team, and USAYESS, particularly when I identify myself as a USAYESS athlete or when my content relates to USAYESS programs, participants, teams, events, volunteers, partners, or activities.

Responsible Online Conduct

I agree that I will not use social media, messaging platforms, websites, forums, or other forms of electronic communication to:

- Threaten, harass, bully, intimidate, or target another individual or group;
- Post discriminatory, hateful, abusive, or demeaning content directed toward another person or group;
- Knowingly publish false or defamatory statements about another athlete, coach, volunteer, official, team, affiliated state organization, sponsor, partner, or USAYESS;
- Encourage or promote violence, dangerous conduct, illegal activity, or unsafe firearm handling;
- Post images, video, or other content showing unsafe firearm handling or conduct that violates USAYESS or range safety rules;
- Share confidential, private, or non-public USAYESS information without authorization;
- Share another person's private information, photographs, messages, or personal details in a manner intended to harass, embarrass, threaten, or harm them;
- Impersonate another person or falsely represent that I am speaking on behalf of USAYESS, my team, or another organization;
- Interfere with, disrupt, or encourage others to interfere with a USAYESS event, competition, program, or official activity; or
- Use social media or electronic communications in a manner that violates other applicable USAYESS policies or codes of conduct.

Respectful Disagreement and Criticism

USAYESS recognizes that athletes and families may have concerns, disagreements, or criticism regarding decisions, policies, events, coaches, officials, or the organization.

Nothing in this Agreement is intended to prohibit respectful, truthful, good-faith criticism or the appropriate reporting of concerns.

Athletes are encouraged to raise concerns respectfully and, when appropriate, use established USAYESS reporting or conflict-resolution procedures.

Disagreement with USAYESS, an affiliated state organization, coach, official, volunteer, sponsor, or partner will not by itself constitute a violation of this policy.

Public and Private Accounts

I understand that conduct may be reviewed under this Agreement regardless of whether it occurs through a public account, private account, direct message, group message, disappearing-message service, or other electronic platform when the conduct relates to USAYESS participation or violates applicable USAYESS safety or conduct policies.

I understand that deleting a post, message, photograph, or video does not necessarily prevent it from being reviewed if copies or screenshots exist.

Safety and Minor Athletes

I understand that electronic communications involving minor athletes must be conducted appropriately and in accordance with applicable USAYESS youth-protection policies.

USAYESS may establish additional requirements governing electronic communications between adult coaches, volunteers, and minor athletes.

Reporting Concerns

Athletes should report credible online threats, harassment, bullying, unsafe firearm conduct, or other serious policy violations to a parent or guardian, coach, USAYESS representative, or other appropriate responsible adult.

Athletes should not retaliate against an individual for making a good-faith report or participating in a USAYESS review or investigation.

Review and Disciplinary Action

Reported violations may be reviewed by USAYESS or the appropriate affiliated organization.

When determining whether disciplinary action is appropriate, USAYESS may consider factors including:

- The nature and severity of the conduct;
- Whether the conduct was intentional;
- Whether another person was threatened, harassed, or endangered;
- Whether the conduct involved firearm or participant safety;
- Whether the conduct was repeated;
- The athlete's prior disciplinary history;
- Whether the athlete accepted responsibility and took corrective action; and
- The effect of the conduct on athletes, teams, events, or USAYESS programs.

Depending on the circumstances, disciplinary action may include:

- Education, counseling, or corrective action;
- A verbal or written warning;
- Removal of inappropriate content when reasonably possible;
- Probation or other conditions on participation;
- Suspension from one or more activities, events, or competitions;
- Suspension of USAYESS membership; or
- Termination or revocation of USAYESS membership in serious or repeated cases.

USAYESS may take immediate temporary action when reasonably necessary to protect participant safety, preserve the integrity of an event, or address a credible threat while a matter is reviewed.

Disciplinary action should be based on the conduct of the individual responsible for the violation. An athlete will not automatically be disciplined for the independent conduct of a parent, guardian, family member, teammate, or other person unless the athlete participated in, encouraged, directed, or knowingly facilitated the prohibited conduct.

Participant Acknowledgment

I understand that participation in USAYESS is a privilege and carries an expectation of responsible conduct both in person and online.

I understand that social media posts and electronic communications can have lasting consequences for myself and others.

By accepting this Agreement, I agree to communicate responsibly, treat others with dignity and respect, protect the safety and privacy of others, and comply with USAYESS policies when using social media and other electronic communications.

THIS IS A RELEASE OF LEGAL RIGHTS. READ IT CAREFULLY AND BE CERTAIN YOU UNDERSTAND IT BEFORE SIGNING

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Print Parent's Name: _____

Signed on: _____

By registering with and/or participating in any USAYESS sanctioned events, you are agreeing to this policy regardless of whether a signature is present.