

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS



Student-Athlete Statement Regarding Involvement In Internet-Based Social Networking Communities

Effective August 1, 2007

Updated January 15, 2014

Internet Social Networking Community Sites. Internet sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and others provide individuals with an opportunity to interact with an extraordinarily expansive universe of new people and connect with current friends. Postings on personal profiles, groups, and chat rooms are in the public domain and easily accessible by anyone including reporters, parents, coaches, groupies, predators, employers, and graduate school admissions officials. Once information is posted, it can be retrieved by computer savvy individuals even after it has been deleted.

Athletics Department Position. Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Kentucky is a privilege, not a right. While the Athletics Department does not prohibit involvement with internet based social networking communities, the high standard of honor and dignity expected from our student-athletes at all times encompasses comments and postings made to internet sites. The Athletics Department reserves the right to take action against any currently enrolled student-athlete engaged in behavior that violates University, Department, or team rules, including such behavior that occurs in postings on the internet. This action may include education, counseling, team suspension, termination from the team and reduction, cancellation, or non-renewal of any athletics scholarship.

Recommendations. Immediately review any internet websites you may have posted on the internet to ensure that the postings are consistent with University, Department, and team rules and that they present you in a way you want to be portrayed. For your safety and privacy, you should refrain from posting and should promptly remove any personally identifiable information such as telephone number, address, class schedule and places frequented as well as any photos you may have posted. Alert the Compliance Office of any sites that falsely appear to be yours as this constitutes identify theft, and the Compliance Staff will assist your efforts to have the offensive site removed. Be cautious about which chat groups you join to be sure you want to be publicly associated with that group. Once you become a member, you are linked to the discussion that takes place within that group. Only the group's administrator is able to delete your group membership or postings made to a group site.

Although not comprehensive, the following are some guideline that student-athletes should keep in mind before posting on a social media site:

- Do not directly or indirectly endorse a business or product.
 - Do not mention alcohol or drugs.
 - Do not post any reference of gambling in a sport that is sponsored by the NCAA.
 - Do not make sexual references of any kind.
 - Do not post negatively about any race, religion, or sexuality.
 - Do not post any gang or gun references.
 - There is zero tolerance for athletes who speak negatively about their university.
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