



Guidelines and Contract for Student-Athletes: Social Media

Scottsburg Student-Athletes,

As you begin your participation in the athletic season, the Athletic Department at Scottsburg High School wants to make sure you are aware of the social media guidelines. Scott County School District 2 Schools and the Athletic Department recognize and support the student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student athlete must remember that playing and competing for Scott County School District 2 is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you represent the school district and you are expected to portray yourself, your team, your school and the school district in a positive manner at all times.

Below are the social networking guidelines, which provide the following direction for social networking site usage:

- Everything you post is public information-any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control the moment it is placed online-even if you limit access to your site. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.
- What you post may affect your future! Many employers, college admissions officers, and athletic recruiters review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the Scott County School District 2's athletic department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as
 - Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other Scottsburg student-athletes, teachers or coaches; and student athletes, coaches or representatives from other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing teams.
 - Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity)
 - Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.
 - Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation-regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.

Social media outlets will be used as a communication device. They will also be used to encourage involvement with family, friends, fans, colleges and recruiting outlets. Do not be afraid to retweet and "Like" so we can promote our sites.

For this reason all student-athletes need to comply with the following:

1. Follow @scsd2athletics
2. Never involve yourself with alcohol or any other controlled substance. Posting pictures, retweeting, or "liking" a post where this behavior is going on also indicates your approval.
3. If you are asked to remove a post, you must do so immediately! This is for the protection of your reputation and that of Scott County School District 2 Public Schools.

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Think about whom you represent: yourself, your family, your teammates and coaches, and your school. Like it or not, people are going to associate everything you post with you and what you represent. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

Guidelines for the Use of Social Networking Media

As an educational institution, Scott County School District 2 Schools supports and encourages the rights of individuals to free speech. However, students should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, their community and /or Scottsburg High School. This includes any activities conducted online through social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, podcasting, blog sites, You Tube, Twitter, or chat rooms among others).

Participation in athletics at Scott County School District 2 Schools is a privilege, not a right. As a student-athlete at Scottsburg High School, you are a representative of the school and the community, and as such, you are always in the public eye. This fact places certain additional demands upon how you must live your life. Keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate in any of the aforementioned public media:

1. Before participating in any online community, understand that anything posted online is available to anyone in the world. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control at the moment it is place online,--even if you limit access to your site.
2. You are not to post information, photos, or other items that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Athletics Department or Scott County School District 2 Schools. This includes items that may be posted on your page by others.
3. You should not post your address, phone numbers, birth date, or other personal information. You could be opening yourself up to predators or stalkers.
4. Exercise caution as to what information you post on your website about your whereabouts or plans. This will help prevent stalkers or other criminally minded individuals from gaining access to you.
5. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site. Many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or seek connection with student-athletes to give them a sense of membership on a team.
6. Coaches and athletic department administrators can and do monitor these websites. Disparaging remarks about teammates, coaches, or school officials can serve as grounds for suspension from competition or dismissal from teams, as well as possible legal ramifications.
7. Students-athletes will face disciplinary measures for violation of team policies, athletic department policies, state athletic association guidelines and /or state and federal laws. Any admissions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student-athlete's website will subject him or her to disciplinary measures. Any depictions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student-athlete's website will be subject to a full investigation.

Also keep in mind that local police or sheriff's offices or other law enforcement agencies may check these websites regularly.

Be cognizant of the fact that many employers and colleges also monitor these sites. You should be aware that any information posted on these websites may prevent you from obtaining a job or prevent you from attending the college of your choice.

- As adapted from NC State University

Athlete Signature _____ Date _____

Name of Athlete _____

(Please Print)

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____