



## SETON HALL PREPARATORY

### ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

#### SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Playing and competing for Seton Hall Preparatory is a privilege. Seton Hall Preparatory student-athletes are representatives of the Prep community and are held to the highest regard within our community. As leaders you have the responsibility to represent your team, Seton Hall Prep and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. At times this will mean that you might have to do things that are an inconvenience to you, but will benefit your team and Seton Hall Preparatory. We ask that you use good judgment when visiting any social media website and when posting on such sites. You are to conduct yourself in a respectful and responsible manner. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, the athletic department and our school.

- It is not allowed for student-athletes to post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, inappropriate behavior (e.g., drug or alcohol use), or items that could be interpreted as demeaning or inflammatory.
- Student-athletes are required to abide by all team policies, athletic department policies, and Seton Hall Preparatory rules when utilizing social media websites.
- It is not acceptable to comment on injuries, officiating, or team matters that could reasonably be expected to be confidential to team members.
- Student-athletes are required to follow all respective social media website rules.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco such as holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of an inappropriate material.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or persons
  - This includes taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender; No posts should portray or encourage unacceptable, violent or illegal activities (examples: hazing, sexual harassment/assault, gambling, discrimination, fighting, vandalism, academic dishonesty, underage drinking, illegal drug use).
- Content online that would constitute a violation of SEC or NJSIAA rules

## **Best Practices and Reminders**

- Think twice before posting. If you wouldn't want your coach, parents, or future employer to see your post, don't post it.
- Be respectful and positive.
- Remember, many different audiences view your posts including fans, SHP alumni, kids, prospective students, local authorities, parents and faculty.
- The internet is perpetual. Even if you delete something, it's still out there somewhere. Be in the right state of mind when you make a post (don't be angry etc...) Coaches and administrators monitor social media websites. Potential colleges use these social media websites to screen students.
- Violation of the Student-Athlete Social Media Policy may result in disciplinary action-- including temporary or permanent suspension from the team--as determined by Athletic Director, Dean of Men and head coach.

## **Penalties**

If a student-athlete's actions or his social media profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors, he will be subject to all of the following penalties:

1. Written warning
2. A meeting with the Director of Athletics, Head Coach and Dean of Men
3. Penalties as determined by the athletic department in junction with the Dean of Men's office, including but not limited to possible suspension from his athletic team.

We are concerned for your safety as well. Please keep the following recommendations in mind when you participate on any social media website:

1. Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
2. You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
3. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site
4. If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as the SHP Athletic Department's and your teams!
5. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, your team, your family or the Prep.