

NC STATE STUDENT-ATHLETE

GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES

As a public institution of higher education, NC State University supports and encourages its student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression and association, including the use of social networks. Nevertheless, as representatives of the university, student-athletes are held to a higher standard and are role models. Playing and competing for NC State is a privilege, not a right. In this context, each student-athlete has the responsibility to portray him or herself, the team, and NC State in a positive manner at all times. Therefore, any online postings to Facebook.com, MySpace.com, Xanga.com, YouTube.com, Friendster.com and other internet sites, as well as Twitter, blogs, chat rooms and other such electronic medium, must be consistent with federal and State laws, team and department and university policies and regulations, and ACC and NCAA rules and policies. Student-athletes will be held responsible for their actions.

In addition, student-athletes must keep in mind that information which is posted can adversely impact personal safety, student status, and career advancement as the postings are easily accessible to reporters, recruits, fans, groupies, predators, sports agents, potential employers, law enforcement officials, and graduate school officials. Student-athletes are expected to post only information and images that appropriately represent themselves and the university.

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, comments and posters) may be accessible even after you remove it.

These guidelines are presented as expectations for student-athletes to follow:

1. You should not post any information, photos, comments, videos or other items online that would embarrass or reflect negatively on you, your family, your team, the Department of Athletics or NC State.
2. For your safety and privacy, you should not post your home address, local address, phone number(s), date of birth, class schedule, team travel arrangements, team hotel and restaurants or other personal information including your whereabouts at any given time or place. This will minimize the potential of being stalked, assaulted, or the victim of other criminal activity.
3. What you post may affect your future. Many employers and graduate school admissions officers 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).

4. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes. Others may think they can gain valuable information about your team or teammates for the purpose of negative publicity, sports gambling or to seek advantage as a sports agent. Carefully check your privacy settings.
5. Be mindful that Internet postings that show images or language reflecting sexual misconduct, underage drinking, violence, hazing, use of illegal drugs or controlled substances, copyright infringement, defamatory language violate the Student Code of Conduct for which you may be sanctioned and your status as a student may be in jeopardy and/or violate Department of Athletics policies for which you may lose the privilege to be on a team.
6. Do not post information about your team or the athletics department that is not public knowledge, such as injury information, roster information, disciplinary actions, etc.
7. Be aware that the Department of Athletics may monitor the internet sites for the sole purpose of determining whether you are in compliance. If it is determined that you have violated these expectations, you may be asked to remove the images from the website or be subject to the loss of athletic privileges and other sanctions as appropriate, including non-renewal or reduction in athletic grant-in-aid or dismissal from a team.
8. If you post photos of yourself in your NC State uniform or team gear, please post the following disclaimer: "The material located at this site is not endorsed, sponsored, or provided by or on behalf of NC State University."