

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Social Networking & Interaction Policy

A statement from the MSU Student Athlete Advisory Committee: Student-athletes should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, and/or Missouri State University. This includes any activities conducted online. As student-athletes, we represent more than ourselves and the reputation of Missouri State is dependent on the conduct and success of its student-athletes.

As student-athletes participating in intercollegiate athletics at Missouri State University, we are representatives of the university and are always in the public eye. Therefore, we have a duty to conduct ourselves in a manner that is positive to our families, the institution and the young people who look up to us as role models. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate on social networking web sites such as “Myspace,” “Facebook” and others.

- 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 the moment it is placed online – even if you limit access to your site.
- You should not post information, photos, or other representations of sexual content, inappropriate behavior (for example, endorsing drug or alcohol use), or which contain offensive or foul language that could embarrass or ruin the reputation of yourself, your family, your team, the athletic department or Missouri State University. This includes statements, information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your page.
- You should not post your email address, home address, local address, telephone number(s), birth date or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- Exercise caution as to what information you post on your website about your whereabouts or plans as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- 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 to give them a sense of membership on a team.

These rules are important because:

- Recruits and parents/legal guardians have been known to check profiles of current members of the team to find out about the character of the team when making a decision about choosing a college or team.
- The Springfield Police Department Substation and other local police and sheriff’s offices check these websites regularly.
- Potential employers and internship supervisors also use these sites to screen candidates.
- Many graduate programs and scholarship committees now search these sites to screen applications.

- You could face discipline and even dismissal for violation of team policies, athletic department policies, or NCAA policies if you violate this policy. Coaches and Administrators can and do monitor these sites.

The athletic department strongly advises MSU student-athletes to exercise extreme caution in their use of social networking websites. It is strongly encouraged to use the privacy and security settings made available on these sites.

Should I not follow the policies and procedures as stated above, I will be subject to the following penalties: (1) meet with the Director of Athletics and Head Coach, (2) community service, (3) possible loss of athletic aid including off campus living expenses, (4) dismissal from the athletics program, or (5) other sanctions as determined by the coaching staff.

I have read and agree to abide by the above stated policies and fully understand that, should I violate this policy, I may be subject to any of the penalties noted above.

Student-Athlete Name (Printed)

Sport

Student-Athlete Signature

Date