



MT. SPOKANE HIGH SCHOOL: SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY & GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Playing and competing for the Mt. Spokane High School Wildcats is a privilege. Student-athletes at MSHS are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school and yourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are an inconvenience to you, but benefit the whole team.

Texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Vine and other social media sites have increased in popularity globally, and are used by the majority of student-athletes here at Mt. Spokane in one form or another.

Student-athletes should be aware that third parties - - including the media, faculty, future employers and WIAA officials - - could easily access your profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the student-athlete, the team and the school. This can also be detrimental to a student-athlete's future employment options, whether in sports or in other industries.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include, but are not limited to, depictions or presentations of the following:

- Photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco e.g., holding cups, bottles, cans, shot glasses etc.
- Photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone drug-related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.
- Content online that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, demeaning or threatening toward any other individual or entity (examples: derogatory comments regarding another school; taunting comments aimed at a student-athlete, coach or team at another institution and derogatory comments against race and/or gender). No posts should depict 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 team, school, and league rules (examples: commenting publicly about a coach, teammate, opponent, official, staff member, and school employees.)
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature or is proprietary to the team or the school, which is not public information (examples: tentative or future team schedules, student-athlete injuries and eligibility status, travel plans/itineraries or information).

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Please remember the Head Coach and the Athletic Director have the ability to suspend, or remove a student from the team on the first inappropriate action.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites:

- Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- 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.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people may be looking to take advantage of student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.
- Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Social Media applications.

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 that of Mt. Spokane High School and your team. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or the school.

By signing below you affirm that you understand the Mt. Spokane High School Team Social Media Policy and Guidelines for Student-Athletes and the requirements that you must adhere to as a MSHS student-athlete. Also, you affirm that failure to adhere to this policy and guidelines may result in consequences that include suspension from your athletic team, and you may be subject to additional penalties imposed by the WIAA, Mt. Spokane High School, and The Mead School District.

Player

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Parent or Guardian

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____