

Grant County High School Athletics
Social Media Contract

In an effort to foster good sportsmanship and to deter the need to enforce discipline, Grant County High School recommends the following guidelines as best practices for the use of social media by all members of its athletic teams. Team members include: the coaching staff, players, managers, boosters and parents/guardians. For the purposes of these guidelines, social media means any form of electronic communication through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content by way of illustration and no limitation of social networking sites.

Grant County High School respects the right of its student athletes to use social media. However, it is important for them to understand not only the need to exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public online behavior but also that what may seem to be private in the digital world can often become public, even without knowledge and consent. Student athletes who use social media must remember that any information posted reflects on the entire Grant County High School Athletic program as well as Grant County High School. Team members are subject to disciplinary actions set forth by this agreement in an attempt to maintain and uphold high standards and character that is expected of all our student athletes.

Best Practice for Social Media Use

These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for Grant County High School student athletes to conduct themselves safely and responsibly in an online environment. As a student athlete you should:

1. **Be aware that privacy settings are NOT foolproof.** It's best to assume that everything you post may potentially be seen by your school, parents/guardians and strangers.
2. **Avoid posting confidential information.** It is not recommended to post confidential information as date of birth, address, phone number, social security number, bank account information, etc. Once these items are posted it becomes property of the social media site.
3. **Avoid unprofessional public profiles.** Be mindful of the image you portray of yourself by what you post. Potential, current and future, employers as well as college admission recruiters may access the information you put on social media sites.
4. **Posting of illegal activities.** It is obviously against our team procedures to be part of illegal activities; however, it is not recommended to post incriminating photos or evidence depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment, vandalism, drug use or any other inappropriate behavior.
5. **Avoid bullying/threat of violence.** Vicious treatment and hateful words can often lead to violence, suicide, depression, and discrimination. Avoid derogatory language about teammates, coaches, students, staff, administrators, spectators, or representatives of other schools.
6. **Avoid lying, cheating and plagiarizing.** Again, all information posted to social media sites is considered public information. It may be viewed by third parties and used against you.

Student athletes participating with Grant County High School athletics should be aware that their online actions have consequences. While Grant County High School does not monitor student athlete's social media accounts, the coaching staff may. The following online actions are considered to be substantially or foreseeably disruptive to the culture of our athletic program and therefore are subject to the consequences listed below.

Online Actions

- General inappropriate language of a profane or sexual nature.
- Profane or inappropriate language or remarks directed toward the coaching staff, teammates, other students, administrators, or representatives of other schools.
- Demeaning statements about or threats to any third party.
- Incriminating photos, statements or language in reference to violence, drug or alcohol use, bullying or any other inappropriate behaviors.
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or threat of serious physical danger.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported felony or property damage.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation.
- Engaging in or indicting knowledge of cyberbullying and/or harassing another student or staff member.
- "Liking" any of the above comments or photos on social media sites indicates your approval of such comments and holds you to the same standard.
- Other inappropriate behavior as deemed so by the coaching staff, athletic director or administration.

Consequences

Student Athletes

- 1st offense- 1 game day suspension (all levels of play)
- 2nd offense- 2 game day suspension (all levels of play)
- 3rd offense- dismissal from the current team for the season

Parent/Guardians (will follow the consequences listed in the Parent Code of Ethics)

- 1st offense- Parents will be issued a strict warning for their behavior. Although not required for a first violation, school officials can issue a suspension based upon the seriousness of the infraction.
- 2nd offense- Parents will be suspended from all athletic contests for a time period of no less than 2 games of their child's current season, including post season games. The parents must meet with administration and athletic personnel; the absence of which will result in an indefinite suspension from all athletic events.
- 3rd offense: Parents will be suspended for the remainder of the school year from all athletic competitions from the date of the 3rd violation

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