

## STUDENT EXPERIENCE/ATHLETICS

Effective Date: September  
1, 2013

Date Revised: August 31,  
2020

Supersedes:

Related Policies: Code of  
Student Conduct,  
Appropriate Use Policy  
Responsible

Office/Department:  
Athletics

Keywords: social media,  
appropriate use

## Policy on Use of Social Media by Student-Athletes

### I. Purpose and Scope

Northeastern University understands that student-athletes engage in the use of social media. However, every student-athlete must remember that playing and competing for the university is a privilege. Student-athletes have the responsibility to portray themselves, their teams and the university consistent with the mission of the Athletics Department. Although student-athletes are not prohibited from using online social media sites or digital platforms, student-athletes must understand the potential pitfalls and dangers associated with such outlets. This policy applies to all student-athletes in their use of social media.

### II. Definitions

N/A

### III. Policy

The university prohibits its student-athletes from displaying inappropriate content or behavior on the internet, including on social media sites. The university, including coaches and administrators, may monitor the activity of student-athletes on social media.

Inappropriate or prohibited conduct may include, but is not limited to:

- Posting photos, videos, or comments showing the personal use or condoning the use of tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.

- Posting photos, videos, or comments that are obscene. This includes posting links to websites that contain such material.
- Using inappropriate or offensive language in comments, videos, or postings, such as threats of violence or derogatory comments pertaining to race or gender, or other violations of university policy.
- Violations of this policy may jeopardize an individual's status as a student-athlete and may result in disciplinary action up to and including separation from the university.

#### **IV. Additional Information**

**Think twice before posting.** Everything you post is public information. Any text or photo placed online is completely out of your control once it is placed online—even if you limit access to your site.

**Use caution when adding someone to your site.**

**Be respectful.** Be positive and treat others the way you would want to be treated. If mentioning an opposing team or opposing player, only do so in a positive manner.

**Be honest.** Be transparent and always tell the truth.

**Don't post anything you wouldn't openly say in the workplace.** Comments that include mention of drug use, profanity, off-color or sexual humor, ethnic slurs, personal insults, or other inflammatory language should not be used.

**Be in the right state of mind when you make a post.** Do not post when your judgment is impaired.

**Remember that the Internet is permanent.** Even if you delete a post, it still exists online and can be found.

**Limit the posting of personal information.** To minimize your risk for being a victim of criminal activity, do not post your home address, local address, telephone number, birthdate, or team travel arrangements.

**Injury information and team matters should never be shared.** Do not post information about injuries — yours or your teammates — and never engage in gossip or share information about team-related matters.

**Every day is a job interview.** Be aware that employers, graduate school personnel, and scholarship committees often review social media sites as part of applicant evaluation.

**Always follow NCAA rules.** It is your responsibility to follow NCAA rules when posting content on a social media account. If you are unsure, ask.

#### **V. Contact Information**

**Athletics Compliance Office at (617) 373-7792**