

# **Park University Athletics Guidelines for the Use of Social Media**

As an institution of higher learning, Park University supports and encourages individual's rights to free speech. However, student-athletes should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, and/or Park University. This includes any activities conducted online through social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, MySpace, Friendster), podcasting, blog sites, or chatrooms.

As a student-athlete participating in intercollegiate sports at Park University, you are a representative of the university and are always in the public eye. Please keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate in any of the above mentioned public media.

- 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 items online that could embarrass you, your family, your team, the Department of Athletics or Park University. This includes information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your page.
- You should not post your address(es), phone number(s), Social Security number, birth date or other personal information. You could be opening yourself up to predators, online criminals or stalkers.
- Exercise caution as to what information you post on your website about your whereabouts or plans. This will help prevent stalkers or other criminally minded individuals from gaining access to you.
- Park students-athletes may not use any proprietary information gathered about the athletic department or any specific sport program and may not use the official marks (logos, photos, work marks, etc.) of Park University.
- Student-athletes may not use any team, action or headshots depicting their role as a student-athlete at Park University.
- Student-athletes may not link their personal web sites to official Park University web sites.
- Do not post comments about fellow student-athletes, coaches, administration, or faculty from Park or any other institution or opponent.
- Coaches and athletic department administrators can and do monitor these web sites.
- Student-athletes could face discipline and even dismissal from athletic teams (including removal of athletic grants) for violation of team policies, athletic department policies, university policies and/or the NAIA.

Keep in mind that the Park University Public Safety Department, other local law enforcement officers, and Park University officials may check these websites regularly.

Be cognizant of the fact that many employers and graduate schools monitor these sites for future employment for internships and postgraduate jobs and admission. You should be aware that any information posted on these websites may prevent you from obtaining a great job or prevent you from attending a graduate school of your choice.

We appreciate your adherence to the above policies and wish you all the best for a continued academic and athletic success throughout the year.

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Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sport

\_\_\_\_\_  
Academic Year