

University of Iowa Department of Intercollegiate Athletics
Guiding Principles
For Iowa Student -Athletes in Their Use of
Internet-Based Social Networks

Internet Social Networks:

Internet sites such as Facebook.com, MySpace.com, Xanga.com, Friendster.com and others enable individuals to interact with an expansive universe of new people and to connect with friends and family. Postings by student-athletes on personal profiles, groups and chat rooms are in the public domain and easily accessible by anyone including reporters, parents, coaches, recruits, fans, groupies, predators, potential employers, and graduate school admissions officials. Even after it has been deleted, information once posted on a web site can sometimes be retrieved by persons with sufficient technical computer skills.

Athletics Department Policy:

Participation in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Iowa is a privilege that imposes certain obligations on student -athletes, including the responsibility of being a positive representative of the University to the public. Student -athletes therefore are expected to conduct themselves at all times with honesty, dignity and good sportsmanship. The Athletics Department believes in protecting the rights of student- athletes to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including their right to use internet social networks. The Athletics Department does not intend to monitor student -athletes' internet sites on a systematic basis, but Athletics Department administrators will periodically conduct random checks of student-athletes' internet sites. Student -athletes are expected to monitor their own internet sites and post only information and images that appropriately represent the University to the public.

The Athletics Department reserves the right, under the Student -Athlete Code of Conduct, Category II Misconduct, to investigate and take action against any student –athlete whose posting of material on an internet site violates, or appears to violate, NCAA, University, Department, or team rules. Internet postings that violate these Guiding Principles are postings of information, images or language that inappropriately represent the University to the public, including but not limited to, partial or total nudity, sexual misconduct, underage alcohol consumption, use of illegal drugs or controlled substances, hazing activities, tobacco use, and obscene gestures.

Recommended Actions:

It is recommended that student- athletes immediately review and then regularly monitor any internet sites they may have posted to ensure that the postings are consistent with NCAA, University, Department, and team rules, and that they present the student athlete in the way s/he wants to be portrayed. To better achieve the purposes of these Guiding Principles, student -athletes are also encouraged to monitor the internet sites of their teammates.

For reasons of safety and privacy, it is recommended that student -athletes refrain from posting and promptly remove any personally identifiable information such as telephone number, address, class schedule and places frequented. Student-athletes should regularly check tagged photos and monitor electronic photo albums to avoid posted photos that would be considered inappropriate.

Student -athletes should be cautious in joining social networking groups to be sure they want to be publicly associated with each specific group. Student -athletes should particularly refrain from creating or joining a group that is obviously inappropriate for student -athletes or is malicious. Student -athletes should also understand that, once they become a group member, they are linked to the on-line discussion that takes place within that group, and only the group's administrator will be able to delete them from group membership or remove postings made to a group site.

Student -athletes should alert the Compliance Services Office if they discover the existence of any site created by others that falsely appears to be their site. The creation of such bogus sites may constitute identity theft, and the University will assist in their efforts to have the offensive sites removed.

By my signature below, I hereby affirm that I have read and understand the University of Iowa Athletics Department's "Guiding Principles on Iowa Student- Athletes Use of Internet-Based Social Networks." Furthermore, I understand that failure to abide by these Guiding Principles by posting materials that violate Athletics Department policy may result in sanctions under Category II Misconduct, as outlined in the Student- Athlete Code of Conduct.

Reviewed by:

ISAAC – 10.21.07

SAW – 3.24.08

Approved by:

PCA—5.5.08