

University of Minnesota Duluth



Student-Athlete Conduct Policy Regarding Involvement in Internet-Based Social Networking Communities.

Student-Athlete Name \_\_\_\_\_ ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Sport \_\_\_\_\_

**Internet Social Networking Community Sites**

Internet sites such as Facebook.com, MySpace.com, Xanga.com, Friendstar.com and others provide individuals with an opportunity to interact with an extraordinary expansive universe of people and connect with current friends. However, postings on personal profiles, groups, and chat rooms are in the public domain and easily accessible by anyone including reporters, parents, coaches, groupies, predators, employers, and graduate school admissions officials. Once information is posted, it can be retrieved by computer savvy individuals even after it has been deleted.

Internet web sites on which people socialize and exchange information have proven many times to contain information or pictures that demonstrate a violation of the UMD Athletic Department’s Code of Conduct. For example, student-athletes have been found to have written disparaging remarks about fellow athletes or department personnel, have demonstrated poor sportsmanship with comments about other schools or other school athletes, or have added pictures of themselves or teammates reflecting underage drinking or other non-appropriate behavior. Student-athletes are public figures and need to represent the University in the most positive manner.

**Athletic Department Policy**

The UMD Athletic Department is prohibiting the posting on any internet web site of any remarks that can be considered as inflammatory, degrading, or in poor taste toward any other UMD student, student-athlete, coach, faculty, or staff member. Remarks that can be considered as inflammatory, degrading or in poor taste toward student-athletes from any other institution or any other institution’s team or coaching staff or any other type of remarks or pictures that would indicate a violation of the UMD Code of Conduct are also prohibited. Any student-athlete who is found to have engaged in any of these activities will be in violation of the UMD Athletic Code of Conduct and subject to disciplinary action.

**Recommendations**

Immediately review any internet websites you may have posted on the internet to ensure that the postings are consistent with Athletic Department policies and team rules and that they present you in a way you want to be portrayed. For your safety and privacy, you should refrain from posting and promptly remove any personally identifiable information such as telephone number, address, class schedule, and places frequented as well as any photos you may have posted. Alert the compliance coordinator or your coach of any sites that falsely appear to be yours, as this constitutes identity theft, and the University will assist your efforts to have the offensive site removed. Be cautious about chat groups you join to be sure you want to be publicly associated with the group. Once you become a member, you are linked to the discussion that takes place within the group. Only the group’s administrator is able to delete your group membership or postings made to a group site.

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By my signing below, I hereby affirm that I have read and understand the Athletic Department’s Student-Athlete Conduct Policy regarding involvement in internet communities (e.g. Facebook.com, MySpace.com, etc). Furthermore, I understand that my failing to adhere to this policy is a violation of the Student-Athlete Code of Conduct and punishable under the terms of the Code of Conduct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student-Athlete Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date