Farmingdale State College
Social Network Policy for Student-Athletes

**Playing and competing for Farmingdale State College is a privilege, not a right.**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the ever-popular world of Social Media, one can quickly forget just how powerful this communication tool can be and the significant impact it can have on an individual, friends, family, teammates, etc. … not to mention, this is the most popular way for employers to do a “quick check” on you. Don’t give them a reason to not hire you.

Social Media refers to the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue. Examples of Social Media include, but are not limited to: Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Myspace, LinkedIn, Podcasts, and Blogs.

As a student-athlete participating in NCAA Intercollegiate athletics at Farmingdale State, you are a representative of the College and are ALWAYS in the public eye whether you think so or not. As a student-athlete, you are held to a higher standard than other students on campus. Please keep in mind the following guidelines below as you participate on the various Social Media sites.

**Guidelines for Student-Athletes**

Student-athletes at Farmingdale State College are encouraged to adhere to the following:

- Student-athletes will not post sexist, racist, obscene or profane material of any kind.
- Student-athletes will not use social media to degrade, demean, or attack any person or school.
- Student-athletes will not post material relating to acts in violation of any Federal or State laws, FSC policies, or team rules.
- Student-athletes will not post material which reflects negatively on themselves, Farmingdale State College, Farmingdale State athletics, their respective teams or other schools.

**Top 5 Issues Getting Student-Athletes into Trouble on Social Media**

1. General Inappropriate Content: 29%
   a. General (inappropriate posts relating to school/team/social activity) – 46%
   b. Language – 36%
   c. Lying – 18%
2. Talking Trash: 24%
3. Alcohol/Drugs: 19%
4. Coaching Complaints: 16%
5. Inappropriate Pictures/Nudity/Partial Nudity: 12%

**Prohibited Conduct:**

Some examples of inappropriate and offensive behavior concerning participation in online communities may include the following…

- a. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, etc.
- b. Posting photos, video and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- c. Posting pictures, videos, comments or posters that condone or portray the use of drug related activity.
d. Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race, gender and/or sexual orientation.

e. Cyber bullying or posting negative comments about opponents prior to or after competition.

f. Posting photos wearing FSC athletics apparel while engaging in inappropriate behavior.

g. Using photos of yourself in FSC athletics apparel or using your status as a FSC student-athlete to promote parties or other social engagements.

h. Commenting on prospective student-athletes who visit FSC or might be coming to FSC.

- Do – praise teammates and team efforts
- Don’t – bash opposing teams or individual players
- Do – thank fans for their support
- Don’t – swear or misspell words
- Do – realize you are a role model for other students at your school
- Don’t – harass others or mention race, religion, sexual orientation or physical conditions
- Do – know that if you retweet or share something, you own it!

**Sanctions:** Any inappropriate activity or language in violation of the above prohibitions, including first time offenses, is subject to investigation and possible sanction by the Athletics Department. Sanctions imposed by the Director of Athletics may include, but are not limited to, the following...

- a. Written notification from the Director of Athletics or assignee to the student-athlete outlining the policy and requiring that the unacceptable content be removed or the social network profile deactivated.
- b. Suspension from the team for a prescribed period.
- c. Dismissal from the team.

**AGREEMENT**

I understand and agree that I am required to know, understand and follow the standards contained in the Farmingdale State College Department of Athletics Social Network Policy for Student-Athletes.

_________________________________________  __________________________________________
(NAME)  (SPORT)

_________________________________________  __________________________________________
(SIGNED)  (DATE)