

**Responsible Use of Social Networking Media for Athletics & Extra-Curricular Activities**

As an educational institution, School City of Hobart supports and encourages the rights of individuals to free speech. However, students should be concerned with any behavior that might embarrass themselves, their families, their teams, their community and/or the School City of Hobart. This includes any activities conducted online through social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Friendster, podcasting, blog sites, You Tube, Twitter, chat rooms, etc.).

Participation in athletics and extra-curricular activities at the School City of Hobart is a privilege, not a right. As a student at the School City of Hobart, you are a representative of the school and the community, and as such, you are always in the public eye. This fact places certain additional demands upon how you must live your life. Keep the following guidelines in mind as you participate in any of the aforementioned public media:

1. 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 at the moment it is placed online, even if you limit access to your site.
2. You are not to post information, photos, or other items that could embarrass you, your family, your team or extra-curricular activity, the Athletic Department, School, or the School City of Hobart. This includes items that may be posted on your page by others.
3. You should not post your address, phone numbers, birth date, or other personal information. You could be opening yourself up to predators or stalkers.
4. 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.
5. Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site. Many people are looking to take advantage of students athletes or seek connection with students to give them a sense of membership on a team or with an organization.
6. Coaches, sponsors, and administrators can and do monitor these websites. Disparaging remarks about teammates, coaches, or school officials can serve as grounds for suspension from competition or dismissal from teams, as well as possible legal ramifications.
7. Students will face disciplinary measures for violation of team/activity policies, athletic department policies, school policies, state athletic association guidelines and/or state and federal laws. Any admissions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student's website will subject him or her to disciplinary measures. Any depictions of conduct in violation of any of these policies or laws found on a student's website will be subject to a full investigation and possible discipline based on the outcome.

Also keep in mind that local police or sheriff's offices or other law enforcement agencies may check these websites regularly.

Be aware of the fact that many employers and colleges also monitor these sites. You should be aware that any information posted on these websites may prevent you from obtaining a job or prevent you from attending the college of your choice.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_