



SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES



As you begin your participation in the athletic season, the SFDR CISD Athletic Department wants to make sure you are aware of the social media guidelines. We recognize and support the student-athletes' rights to freedom of speech, expression, and association, including the use of social networks. In this context, however, each student athlete must remember that playing and competing for SFDR Athletics is a privilege not a right. As a student-athlete, you represent your team, this department, the school district, and your families. Therefore, you are expected to portray yourself in a positive manner at all times.

Below are the social networking guidelines, which provide the following direction for social networking sites:

Everything you post is public information-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. Information (including pictures, videos, and comments) may be accessible even after you remove it. Once you post a photo or comment on a social networking site, that photo or comment becomes the property of the site and may be searchable even after you remove it.

- What you post may affect your future! Many employers, college admissions officers, and athletic recruiters review social networking sites as part of their overall evaluation of an applicant. Carefully consider how you want people to perceive you before you give them a chance to misinterpret your information (including pictures, videos, comments and posters).
- Similar to comments made in person, the SFDR CISD athletic department will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as
 - **Derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other students, teachers or coaches; and student athletes, coaches or representatives from other schools, including comments that may be disrespectful to opposing teams.**
 - **Incriminating photos or statements depicting violence, hazing, sexual harassment; full or partial nudity; inappropriate gestures; vandalism; stalking; underage drinking, selling, possessing, or using controlled substances; or any other inappropriate behavior (including the use of profanity)**
 - **Creating serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person.**

- **Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation-regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional.**

For this reason, all student-athletes need to comply with the following:

1. Never involve yourself with alcohol or any other controlled substance. Posting pictures, retweeting, or “liking” a post where this behavior is going on also indicates your approval.
2. If you are asked to remove a post, you must do so immediately! This is for the protection of your reputation and that of the SFDR CISD District and Athletic Department.

In short, do not have a false sense of security about your rights to freedom of speech. Understand that freedom of speech is not unlimited. The online social network sites are NOT a place where you can say and do whatever you want without repercussions. The information you post on a social networking site is considered public information. Think about whom you represent: yourself, your family, your teammates and coaches, and your school. Like it or not, people are going to associate everything you post with you and what you represent. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

Student athletes could/will face discipline and/or dismissal for violations as per the student/parent handbook.

Athletic Department use of social media:

Social media outlets will be used as a communication device for information and to highlight our student-athletes and coaches. They will be used to encourage involvement with family, friends, fans, colleges and recruiting outlets.

Do not be afraid to retweet and “Like” so we can promote our sites

Thank you for your continual support of the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated School District and Athletic Department!

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