



BORDENTOWN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

A GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

Guidelines for Student-Athletes: Social Media

Dear Bordentown Regional School District Student-Athletes,

As you begin participation in another athletic season, the Athletic Department of Bordentown Regional High School and Middle Schools wants to make sure you are aware of the revised social networking guidelines. The Bordentown Regional School District and the Athletic Department 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 Bordentown Regional School District is a privilege. As a student-athlete, you represent the Bordentown Regional School District and the communities of Bordentown City, Bordentown Township, Cookstown, and Fieldsboro. You are expected to portray yourself, your team, and the School District in a positive manner at all times. Below please review the following guidelines for social networking site usage:

- 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 and college admissions officers 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).
- As with comments made in person, the Bordentown Regional School District Department of Athletics will not tolerate disrespectful comments and behavior online, such as: derogatory language or remarks that may harm teammates or coaches; other Bordentown student athletes, teachers, or coaches; and student-athletes, coaches, or representatives of other schools, including comments that may disrespect my opponents.
- Photographs 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 behaviors are unacceptable.
- Creating a serious danger to the safety of another person or making a credible threat of serious physical or emotional injury to another person is also not acceptable.
- Indicating knowledge of an unreported school or team violation—regardless if the violation was unintentional or intentional will not be tolerated.

Patrick M. Lynch, Principal
Alessandra Rogers, Assistant Principal

Joseph F. Sprague, Assistant Principal
Joseph R. Martin, Assistant Principal

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 on-line 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. Protect yourself by maintaining a self-image of which you can be proud for years to come.

Patrick M. Lynch, Principal
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