

UST Athletics: Social Networking Guidelines

These are recommendations for social networking accounts for websites as facebook.com and myspace.com as well as YouTube, picture-posting sites (from picture and camera phones), and blog sites. It is expected that University of St. Thomas student-athletes will understand these guidelines and make wise and responsible decisions concerning their use of social networking opportunities.

- 1.) Remember that all information appearing in your account (i.e. personal data, photos, text, etc.) will be published to the internet, which can be accessed by anybody with a computer (even people who are not your intended target audience). Assume that all material will be seen by your peers, parents, coach or other university personnel, because there's a good chance it might be. It is also important to remember that anything posted on your site will follow you for ever. You cannot simply go in and remove a picture or something you may have written and posted. If others have hit on your site, your information can be networked anywhere. This could come back to haunt you as you seek employment or other opportunities in the future.
- 2.) Keep personal contact information off the internet (i.e. phone numbers, physical address, dorm rooms, etc.). Update your privacy settings so that profiles and groups are not visible.
- 3.) Always monitor your account photo gallery. Do not include or remove photos with alcohol, drugs, nudity, obscene gestures, or those that depict illegal activities (such as trespassing and underage drinking). Be aware that photos can be altered or tagged by others.
- 4.) Monitor your account postings so not to include derogatory or obscene statements. You are responsible for all content appearing on your page.
5. Positively promote Tommie athletics in your account. Refrain from negatively referencing or discussing issues regarding your team, coaches and/or the athletic department. What you include on these public websites reflects both positively and negatively on your team, your coaches, and the entire University of St. Thomas community. You are judged by your actions as athletes and the image you portray to the public both in person and online. Your web presence should reflect the same standards of propriety that our teams reflect in restaurants and public transportation when we travel, and represent the university.
6. Display good sportsmanship through your account activities by avoiding trash talk or disrespectful comments aimed at opponents.
- 7.) Report any problems or concerns to your captains, SAAC representatives, coaches or athletic department personnel and /or the Dean of Students.