

WCSA Social Media Policy

Website: www.wcsasoccer.com

Athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators in the Western Cincinnati Soccer Association (WCSA) have the responsibility to portray the soccer association, their team, their organization, and themselves in a positive manner always. In recent years social media sites and apps such as Facebook, X (Twitter), Instagram, Snapchat, and TikTok have increased in popularity and are used by most athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators in WCSA.

Athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators may not be aware that third parties including the media, future employers, other coaches, other players/parents, and anyone else can easily access their profiles and view all personal information. This includes all pictures, videos, comments, and posters. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the athletes, coaches, parents, and the soccer association. This can be detrimental to the reputation of athletes, coaches, parents, and spectators along with the reputation of the WCSA.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include but are not limited to depictions or presentations of the following:

- Posting:
 - Athletes - Posting photos, videos, comments, or posters showing the personal use of alcohol or tobacco (ex., holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.)
 - Coaches, Parents, Spectators, Coordinators, Board Members - Posting photos, videos, comments, or posters showing the personal use of alcohol or tobacco (ex., holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.) while wearing anything that references WCSA.
- Posting photos, videos, or comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material.
- Posting pictures, videos, comments, or posters that condone drug related activity. This includes but is not limited to images that portray the personal use of marijuana, and drug paraphernalia.
- Using inappropriate or offensive language in all comments, videos, and other postings. This includes threats of violence and derogatory comments against race and/or gender.
- Postings being disrespectful, harmful, or degrading to any athlete, coach, parent, spectator, referee or WCSA.

For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social media websites and apps:

- Set your security settings so that only your friends can view your profile.
- You should not post your email, home address, local address, telephone number(s), or other personal information as it could lead to unwanted attention, stalking, identity theft, etc.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend to your site – many people are looking to take advantage of children or to seek connection with children.
- Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all applications.

If you are ever in doubt of the appropriateness of your online public material, consider whether it upholds and positively reflects your own values and ethics as well as WCSA. Remember always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or WCSA.

If the profile of an athlete, coach, parent, or spectator and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors, he or she will be subject to one or more of the following penalties:

- Written warning
- Meeting with District Representative, Disciplinary Committee, and WCSA Board
- Penalties as determined by the WCSA Board such as suspension or removal from team or WCSA related activities