



Hortonville High School Softball
Social Media Policy & Guidelines for Softball Players



Playing softball for Hortonville High School is a privilege. Softball players at Hortonville High School are held in the highest regard and are seen as role models in the school and community. As leaders you have the responsibility to portray your team, your school, and yourselves in a positive manner at all times.

Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and other social media sites have increased in popularity, and are used by a large number of our softball players in one form or another. Players should be aware that third parties- including teachers, school administration, parents, opponents, and future employers – can easily access your profiles and view all personal information. Inappropriate material found by third parties affects the perception of the softball player, the softball program, and the school.

Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentation of the following:

- Content that is unsportsmanlike, derogatory, or threatening toward any other individual, team or entity. (This would include “trash talking”)
- Photos, videos, or comments that make reference to alcohol, tobacco, or drug related material.
- Photos, videos, or comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature or other inappropriate material.
- Content online that would constitute a violation of Hortonville High School or WIAA rules and regulations.
- Information that is sensitive or personal in nature to any member of the Hortonville Softball Program. (Injuries, Eligibility, Game Plan, etc)

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

- Set your security settings so only your friends or followers can view your profile.
- Be aware of who you add as a friend or follower to your site or profile.
- Do not post personal information, like telephone number or home address, which could lead to unwanted attention.

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 the Hortonville Softball Program. Remember, always present a positive image and don't do anything to embarrass yourself, your team, your school, or your community.

As a rule, communication between coaches and players concerning softball related items will be done through face to face communication. Texting and social media websites cannot always include voice tone, facial expressions, body language, and other important aspects and can sometimes cause the message to be misinterpreted. The exception to this will be if the coaching staff needs to communicate an unexpected practice/game schedule change or reminder of upcoming special items. The Remind app will be used in these cases as a group notification board. This app will not be used for individual communication and is available for parents/guardians to join. Instructions on how to join will be provided by each team's coach once teams are formed.

By signing below, you affirm that you understand the Hortonville High School Softball Social Media Policy and the requirements that you must adhere to as a Hortonville softball player. Failure to properly follow this policy will result in disciplinary action as deemed necessary by the softball coaching staff.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____