

## **Social Media Policy**

Parents are Advised Not to Post Identifiable Information of Players on Social Media

Social media can be a fun tool to communicate with friends and family about things that are going on in your life. However, it can also provide more information than you realize about yourself and others. For this reason, HTSA advises parents to be mindful of what they post on their social media profiles, regardless if those profiles are public or private.

Inappropriate postings that divulge the identity of minors are not permitted.

Inappropriate postings include posting:

- First and last name of a minor
- Name and location of player
- Team rosters with names and contact information

When posting photos of HTSA players, other than your own child(ren), we advise you to check with the other child's parents before posting. **Do not post identifiable information of children other than your own.**

**If you question whether the posting is appropriate, it is probably in the best interest of the player to not post the image.** We depend on our HTSA community to help provide a safe haven for all HTSA players.

All HTSA websites and pages on Social Media sites such as Facebook must be monitored to prevent inappropriate postings, which either divulge the identity of minors or include any disparaging comments or pictures. Neither HTSA websites nor social media sites may be conduits for social bullying, airing grievances, or gateways for predators.

Pictures posted on public sites should not include the names of individual players to avoid identifying children to the wrong individuals. Team rosters with names, numbers and contact information must not be posted on any public website or social media page.

## **Electronic Communication**

In keeping with the goal of the Safe Haven program to address the growing need to protect children from abuse, which includes the invasion of privacy rights and/or volunteers from misunderstandings and false accusations, the following recommendations are proposed for electronic communications and the use of social media sites, such as Facebook or Twitter.

HTSA asks all adults, regardless of whether they have a current volunteer application form on file, to maintain transparency in their communications with

children while protecting children's identity and privacy. It is the responsibility of adults to maintain appropriate boundaries.

All communications regarding HTSA activities and participation in the program must be directed to parents and guardians including voice messages, e-mails, and text messages. It is up to a child's parent(s) and/or guardian(s) to forward necessary communications to their children. If, for older players or youth volunteers, parents/guardians allow direct communications with a player or youth volunteers, parents must still be copied on any and all messages. Adults should refrain from private, personal, on-going electronic conversations with children.

The advantages and convenience of electronic communications and social media pages make them valuable and necessary tools for communicating with HTSA participants. As long as these guidelines for interactions between adults and children are used in electronic media, the risk of abuse and misunderstandings can be minimized. Parents play a critical role in keeping children safe online and they must be included in all communications.