

Westchester County Baseball Umpires Association

Social Media Policy

Introduction:

Social Media has become more accessible than ever and is changing the ways we communicate on a daily basis. The guidelines for functioning in an electronic world are similar to the values and ethics policies individuals are expected to live by every day, whether you are posting, Tweeting, talking with co-workers or chatting with a neighbor. Remember your responsibility to the WCBUA doesn't end when you leave the ball field.

Purpose:

To assist WCBUA members in participating online in a respectful, professional manner that protects the Mission and Reputation of the WCBUA and high school baseball, along with adhering to the policies of our organization. Here are some guidelines to provide helpful and practical advice when operating on the internet or on social media as an identifiable WCBUA representative. These guidelines apply to members who create or contribute to blogs, social networks, or any other kind of social media.

Guidelines:

WCBUA members should exercise care in setting appropriate boundaries between their personal and public on line behavior, understanding that what is private in the digital world often has the possibility of becoming public, even without their knowledge or consent. The WCBUA strongly encourages all members to carefully review privacy settings on any social media and networking sites they use and exercise good care and judgment when posting information on such sites.

Here are a few guidelines when operating on the internet.

- Read and familiarize yourself with the WCBUA Social Media policy and guidelines.
- Any personal social media posts and comments must not potentially embarrass the WCBUA, damage the WCBUA's reputation or tarnish its image.
- Never misrepresent yourself or the WCBUA by making false or misleading comments or posts. All statements must be true and accurate.
- WCBUA members should be cautious about making online comments on any topic related to their officiating assignments or WCBUA duties. Remember that any social media, print, telephone, written or other form can be made public. Areas to be concerned about include :

- Specific game assignment, locations and dates. While some of this maybe public domain, it is not within the scope of a WCBUA member's authority. Only the President of the WCBUA or his designee are authorized to make statements which may be made public.
- The scores or outcomes of any games.
- Situations or events that occurred in any games.
- The officiating performance of other members, partners or officials in any association, sport or level. While discussions with other sports officials maybe privately held, the topics of a fellow official's performance must be specifically kept out of the media.
- "Friends" or "connections" with coaches, athletic directors and other participants in the sport we officiate should be carefully managed on social media. Keep potential changes in relationships in mind. For example and official may become a coach. In this case, it may be appropriate (or not) to drop this connection. Care should be used to eliminate the perception of an inappropriate relationship.
- Members shall not create WCBUA specific social media profiles, or represent themselves as WCBUA websites, pages or blogs, without written consent of the Executive Board of the WCBUA

Consequences of Violating the WCBUA Social Media Policy

Inappropriate activity that is in conflict with this documents guidelines may result in disciplinary action in accordance with the WCBUA by-laws, ranging from private reprimand to expulsion, and may include fine, probation, suspension, reduction of classification or any combination of the above deemed appropriate by the decision making body