



NJFOA SOUTH - Edward G. Myer Chapter

Social Media Policy

Introduction:

The NJFOA South, "Chapter", acknowledges on-line social media usage has become a part of our daily communications. The following guidelines are intended to assist members in communicating online in a respectful manner that protects the Mission and Reputation of the Chapter, the sports officiated by, as well as the many athletes, schools and officials we represent. Social media includes all means of communicating or posting information or content of any sort via digital applications or on the Internet, including any social network, blog, podcast, journal or diary, personal web site, web bulletin board or a chat room, as well as any other form of electronic communication. The most common forms of social media are Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, SnapChat, YouTube and LinkedIn.

Guidelines:

As a member of the Chapter, you are solely responsible for what you post online. Before creating online content, you should consider some of the risks and rewards that are involved, understanding what is private in the digital world often will become public without your knowledge or consent. The Chapter strongly encourages all members to carefully review the privacy settings on any social media and networking sites you use and exercise care and good judgment when posting content and information on such **sites**. These guidelines apply to participation under your name or an assumed identity or avatar.

Here are a few guidelines when operating on the internet.

- Read and familiarize yourself with the Chapter's Social Media policy, as well as all NJSIAA policies.
- Social media posts and comments must not potentially embarrass the Chapter, its members, other NJFOA Chapters, or damage the reputation, or tarnish the image of our members or the Chapter.
- Never misrepresent yourself or the Chapter by making false or misleading comments or posts. All statements must be true and accurate.
- Chapter members should refrain from making online comments on any topic related to their officiating assignments or duties. Remember that any social media, print, telephone, written, or other form of communication can be made public. Areas to be concerned with include:
 - o Specific game or match assignments, locations or dates. While some of these may be public domain, it is not within the scope of the Chapter member's authority. Only the President, or his/her designee, is authorized to make statements which may be public.
 - o The scores or outcome of any game or match. This includes penalties or fouls assessed.
 - o Situations or events that occurred in a game or match. Examples would be calls made, interactions with fans, coaches or players.
 - o Do not discuss the officiating performance of other members, partners or officials in any association, sport or level. While discussions with other sports officials may be privately held outside of the event, the topic of a sports official's performance must be

specifically kept out of social media. Keep in mind that even a "generic" comment can be identified or misconstrued.

- Social Media "connections" with coaches, athletic directors, players or any other participants in the sport in which you officiate shall be avoided.
- Officials shall not accept game assignments from schools where they are "Connected" with a coach or other person which can be considered a conflict of interest.
- Members shall not create NJSIAA/NJFOA specific Social Media profiles, or represent themselves as officials on websites, pages, or blogs, without the written consent of the President, or his/her designee of the Chapter.

Consequences of Violating the NJFOA South-Edward G. Myer Social **Media** Policy:

The Chapter respects the right of its members to participate in social networking sites and does not discourage self-publishing or self-expression. Members are expected to follow these guidelines to protect the Chapter, yourself and your privacy. Inappropriate activity that conflicts with this document's guidelines may result in disciplinary action, ranging from private reprimand to expulsion, and may include fine, probation, suspension, reduction of any classification, or any combination of the above deemed appropriate by the Executive Board or its designated committee. If you have questions or need further guidance, please contact your room representative or the Executive Board.

Consider the content carefully. The Internet has a long memory. The NJFOA-South is OUR organization, and WE must protect our values and ethics.