Playing and competing for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a privilege not a right. Student-athletes at ABAC are held in high regard and are seen as role models in the community. As leaders we have the responsibility to portray our team, our institution and ourselves in a positive manner at all times. Sometimes this means doing things that are of an inconvenience to us, but benefit the whole team.

In recent years, Facebook, Twitter and other social networking sites have increased in popularity and are used by the majority of student-athletes at ABAC. Student-athlete’s may not be aware that third parties including the media, faculty, future employers, etc. 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 student, the ABAC Athletics and the institution. This can be detrimental to a student-athlete’s future employment options. Examples of inappropriate and offensive behaviors concerning participation in online communities may include depictions or presentations of the following:

1. Posting photos, videos, comments or posters showing the personal use of alcohol, tobacco, i.e., no holding cups, cans, shot glasses etc.

2. Posting photos, videos, and comments that are of a sexual nature. This includes links to websites of a pornographic nature and other inappropriate material and innuendo.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Posting information, photos, statements and items that could embarrass or ruin the reputation of you, your team, the ABAC Athletics or Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. This includes statements, information, photos and items that may be posted by others on your page.

If a student-athlete’s profile and its contents are found to be inappropriate in accordance with the above behaviors he/she will be subject to penalties ranging from meetings with ABAC administrators to written warnings or penalties (i.e. suspension from athletic team) determined by the Head Coach along with the Director of Athletics and Asst Dean of Students. For your own safety, please keep the following recommendations in mind as you participate in social networking websites:

• 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 student-athletes or to seek connection with student-athletes.

• Consider how the above behaviors can be reflected in all Social Media 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 ABAC Athletics and the Institution. Remember always present a positive image and don’t do anything to embarrass yourself, the team, your family or the Institution (see Athletic Handbook).

I understand my responsibility as an ABAC Student-Athlete in regards to Social Networking:

__________________________________________________________________________  ______________________
Student Signature                                                  Date

__________________________________________________________________________  ______________________
Parent Signature (if athlete is a minor)                       Date

Updated: June 2014