

Peninsula Is Mightier Community Guidelines

Hello and welcome to Peninsula Is Mightier. This is a blog that is all about the Miami Heat, so since you are reading this you must be in some way, shape or form, a big-time Heat fan. Like any other good community, PIM has had to set some guidelines in order to keep things peaceful and pleasant around the blog. Those guidelines are broken into 3 parts:

"The Good", behavior and participation that enhances the PIM experience and furthers open discussion in a fun, smart and respectful way.

"The Bad", actions and attitudes that are less desirable and will almost certainly get you warned; and

"The Ugly", unacceptable activity that will probably get you banned.

The Good:

Being Polite: This is a relatively family friendly community. It's also a forum for spirited discussion about your Miami Heat. Our posts regularly find their way to the Yahoo! Sports Miami Heat pages. The language and content of any posts and comments should be acceptable for a broad national (and international) audience.

Thinking Before Writing: Every once in a while, you're going to have simply a gut feeling or write from a completely subjective point of view. That's fine. Most sports stories can merit a difference of opinion. However, a well-thought out and rational argument will get a lot more readership and positive feedback than a quick and angry rant about how Erik Spoelstra should be fired. Lay out your argument and back it up with appropriate historical or statistical data whenever possible. The same goes for any counterarguments one might post in a response or comment.

Research and Citations: When backing up said argument, citing and especially linking to other articles that support your idea makes for a stronger post than just writing "Well, Spoelstra, Riley, Arison, etc. said so." Giving recognition via links to the authors upon whose work you draw is the best show of appreciation you can offer, and they will also be more likely to also link back to you in the future.

Rec Thy Neighbor: RECing! I can't say enough about it. If you read something you like, please click the "REC" button at the bottom of the post or comment. REC'ed posts get a more prominent listing on the front page of both PIM and SBNation.com. REC'ed comments glow in a lovely shade of green. "+1s" are good, RECs are better, more colorful and concise. And it's a nice way to give the author of said post a nice pat on the back.

Know Thy Formatting Tools: The good and wonderful codemonkeys of SBNation.com have provided you with an excellent and intuitive interface for formatting posts. While you don't have to use special formats when posting or commenting, the judicious use of bold text, italics, bullet points, blockquotes

(especially blockquotes when citing other sources or using a quote) and hyperlinks will give your post a little extra oomph and readability.

The Bad:

Over-quoting or Re-Pasting Entire Articles: Please respect other websites' content. Content is the king, queen and jack of internet publishing and drives traffic which in turn drives revenue for most websites. Copying all or most of someone else's article is theft and hurts both their traffic and our integrity as a community.

This is doubly true if said content is somewhere you have to pay to see it (e.g., ESPN Insider). If it's that great, please summarize and link to it and show our e-neighbors the same respect we'd like them to show us. And if some members of the community can't read a piece because we're not subscribers, it's on us to subscribe and not on you to "liberate" the content.

Personal Attacks: Argue the point of a post, not whether or not the author is a d-bagg. And if someone does call you a name that you don't like (which will almost certainly happen at some point), be the bigger person and don't retaliate.

Profanity: So, you slipped up and said "shit" when "crap" would have sufficed. It's OK. It happens. Please don't let it happen frequently. Feel free to make liberal use of ampersands, pound signs, and asterisks if you must quote someone's profanity laced post-game tirade. This isn't a place for the faint of heart but there's no need to be overly profane. There is no hard and fast rule here but like porn, we know it when we see it and by it we mean too much or improper use of profanity.

The Ugly:

Personal Threats: Calling someone a d-bagg will get you warned. Offering to kick their d-baggy butt in the parking lot at lunch will get you banned. End of story.

Repeated, Rampant Profanity: This is "Inside the NBA" on TNT, not "Joe Buck Live" on HBO late night. Your Artie Lange impersonation is not welcome here.

Spamming: Odds are if you're doing this, you're probably not bothering to read this document. If you are bothering to read this, then please keep your comments and posts Heat-related. We're not interested in your porn site, male enhancement offer or scalped tickets.

Trolling: This is a two-way street. We don't appreciate it when a rowdy fan from another team comes in simply to repeatedly post "Eff The Heat" or "You're not worthy to hold Shaq's jock anymore." If you come to PIM with the sole intentions of speaking negatively about the Heat, stirring up arguments and pissing the loyal members off, you will not be welcome here much longer. We also don't appreciate it when our members go to other team's sites doing it either. Please

feel free to go to other sites and participate there. Just know that the blogging community is tight. We talk to one another. Misbehaving on another blog will get you kicked out of ours too.

The Summary:

In two words or less: be cool. Use common sense. Have fun.

And remember the most basic principle of civil internet conversation:

"Would I be embarrassed to say this in front of strangers who were physically present in the room with me and could respond to my face?" If the answer is "yes," then don't post.

The above isn't so much a hard and fast collection of rules and regulations as it is a suggestion for best practices that will enhance everyone's Peninsula Is Mightier experience. Final judgment as to what is considered appropriate or inappropriate rests with the editorial staff, who will take any offense on a case by case basis.

Thank you for joining us here at Peninsula Is Mightier. We look forward to hearing what you have to say!