

Little League removes softball team from World Series over social media post

By Mark Townsend, Big League Stew

According to the Richmond-Times Dispatch, Little League officials were made aware of the photo, which shows several members of the team giving the middle finger to the camera, on Saturday morning. It was quickly decided to disqualify the team, which consists of girls ages 12-14, from further competition.

The photo in question was taken moments after Atlee defeated Kirkland American in the semifinals on Friday.

Little League spokesman Kevin Fountain released the following statement to the Times-Dispatch explaining the committee's decision:

"After discovering a recent inappropriate social media post involving members of Atlee Little League's Junior League Softball tournament team, the Little League® International Tournament Committee has removed the Southeast Region from the 2017 Junior League Softball World Series for violation of Little League's policies regarding unsportsmanlike conduct, inappropriate use of social media, and the high standard that Little League International holds for all its participants."

As a result of the disqualification, Kirkland American was given Atlee's spot in the championship game.

Atlee manager Scott Currie was clear in stating that the photo reflected poor sportsmanship, but wasn't convinced the post was enough to "justify the disqualification."

"Somebody got a hold of it. I guess they ran it through to Williamsport," Currie said. "Williamsport decided to disqualify us."

Coach Chris Mardigian added that the photo was in response to the treatment Atlee players received from members of the Kirkland American team during their visit. Kirkland serves as the host city for the tournament.

That may explain his team's actions, but it doesn't justify them. It's a truly unfortunate way for a team's memorable journey to end. But it's also a good lesson on the importance of making good decisions and acting responsibly at all times.

From <https://ca.sports.yahoo.com/news/little-league-removes-softball-team-world-series-social-media-post-212434926.html>

Questions:

1. What was inappropriate about the photo posted on Snapchat? Why was it inappropriate?
2. What are TWO consequences that followed from the social media post?
3. Why is it important to act responsibly on social media when representing a sports team?

5. Your digital identity is the persona that emerges from all your online activity, including text messages, online pictures, posts on FaceBook, SnapChat, Instagram, etc. This online persona forms part of your public identity – the way others see you.

Being on a sport's team is like working at a job. Often employers will make judgments about your personality and character based on your digital identity. Think about your digital identity. What persona emerges? List at least two traits and explain your thinking.

1. Correctly identifies and explains problem with SnapChat photo			0	1	2
2. Correctly identifies two consequences			0	1	2
3. Digital responsibility response shows thought			0	1	2
4. Lists and explains two character traits	0	1	2	3	4
TOTAL: 10 MARKS					

Little League Article and Questions Rating Scale

1. Correctly identifies and explains problem with SnapChat photo			0	1	2
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