

Bright Side of the Sun Community Guidelines

Hello and welcome to Bright Side of the Sun! If you're reading this you are almost certainly a diehard fan of Phoenix Suns basketball and we appreciate your participation. In order to form a more perfect union, we've created a primer for posting and participating in our particular purple and orange corner of the interwebs.

It's been broken into 3 parts:

"**The Good**", behavior and participation that enhances the BSotS experience and fosters open discussion in an intelligent and fun fashion;

"**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 of our beloved Phoenix Suns. Our posts regularly find their way to the Yahoo! Sports and KTAR.com Suns 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. Not every sports story is quantifiable statistically. However, a well-thought out and cogent argument will get a lot more readership and positive feedback than a hastily dashed-off rant about how Robert Sarver is a cheap@\$\$\$. 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 thesis makes for a stronger post than just writing "Well, Hollinger, Coro, Simmons, 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 BSotS 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 warm fuzzy for the day. Conversely, if you see content that violates these guidelines, please click the "FLAG" button and let us know.

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) and hyperlinks will give your post a little extra oomph and readability.

Be Fresh: Several Suns-related themes have been beaten to death (i.e., Sarver is cheap, the Suns would have won if only there were no hip check, broken face, suspensions, etc.). If you're posting, focus more on current events and emerging trends with history as the backdrop -- and we love if you can bring something new to the table.

Stay On Topic: Please try and keep comments related to the article or post you are commenting on. Got some new rumor or trade idea you want to share? Post it in "The Madhouse". Anything (within the guidelines) is welcome there!

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 behind some kind of paywall (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 sausagehead. And if someone does call you a sausagehead (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 Trade Machine (or Time Machine) is Not a Toy: OK, it is actually a toy and a pretty fun and useful one at that. However, just because you found 12 different trades that get the Suns LeBron James and Chris Bosh and under the cap does not mean you need to share them with us. When speculating about trades or possible signings, please keep in mind the "Thinking Before Writing" and "Be Fresh" suggestions from above. The same goes for any posts on what could've, should've or would've been.

The Ugly:

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

Repeated, Rampant Profanity: This is basic cable here, not HBO or Showtime. Incessant foul language, especially after a warning, will get you banned.

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 Suns-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 Suns" or "You're not worthy to hold Shaq's jock anymore." 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 Bright Side of the Sun 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.

All of us on the masthead cut our teeth in the FanPost section of the site. Front page space is limited, precious and is broadcast across the internet on Yahoo Sports, USA Today and, sometimes, the Wall Street Journal. Good work is rewarded. And if you don't aspire to the front page, all of these guidelines are just as applicable to the FanPosts and comments section as well, which are read by basketball fans who visit the site daily.

Thank you for joining us here at Bright Side of the Sun. We look forward to hearing what you have to say!