

Surf Life Saving Association of Wales – WhatsApp Terms of Reference for Clubs and Teams

Purpose

Our WhatsApp group aims to provide a safe and respectful space for communication among young people under the age of 18. This code of ethics outlines guidelines for behaviour within the group.

Key Principles

1. Respectful Communication:

- All messages should be supportive and respectful of other group members.
- While it's okay to express frustration or strong feelings, please keep language moderate and criticism constructive.
- Avoid swearing or offensive language.

2. Confidentiality:

- Respect the confidentiality of anything posted in the group.
- Do not mention names or other identifying details in your posts if it could cause difficulties.
- Do not post pictures that may cause embarrassment to your teammates or without permission

3. Parental Consent:

- Obtain parental or guardian consent before communicating with under-18s via WhatsApp.
- Ideally, the adult(s) responsible for communication should be named.
- There will be two adult moderators responsible for ensuring the Terms of reference are adhered to

4. Purpose of Communication:

- Clearly state the purpose of any communication within the group.
- Keep discussions relevant to the group's focus.

5. Monitoring and Oversight:

- There will be two adult moderators responsible for ensuring the Terms of Reference are adhered to
- Group administrators and staff may monitor conversations to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Guidelines

- Use of the WhatsApp group is open to all individuals aged 16 or above who agree to follow these guidelines.
- Remember that our primary goal is to support and uplift each other.
- Let's create a positive and respectful environment for everyone!

Inappropriate Behaviour

1. **Negative Comments:** Avoid posting negative comments related to sports ability, appearance or any of the 10 protected characteristics. Such posts can indirectly hurt others and create tension within the group.
2. **Inappropriate Content:** Sharing content that is offensive, inappropriate, or unrelated to the group's purpose is discouraged. If a member posts such content, it's essential to address it privately or remind them of the group rules
3. **Malicious Intent:** Be cautious of any behaviour that promotes harm, self-harm, sexual violence, racism, or discrimination. Inappropriate messages can negatively impact group dynamics and individual well-being.
4. **Stressful Content:** Avoid sharing information that causes stress or discomfort for others. Use first-person terms when discussing sensitive topics to maintain a respectful tone.

Remember that maintaining a positive and respectful environment in a WhatsApp group is crucial for everyone's well-being.

Remember that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and creating a safe environment requires collaboration across the entire sports community. If you need further guidance or have specific questions, feel free to ask! safeguarding@slsawales.org.uk

