



# Code of Conduct

## Social Media

### (including WhatsApp)

#### Highlighted changes from 2023

- Social Media channels and WhatsApp Groups are there to promote the activities and aims of NYC ~ CHD.
- The club will follow the normal recommended aged guidelines for membership of each of its social media platforms.
- WhatsApp group memberships will be restricted to aged over eighteens.
- Membership of Club Social Media groups will be routinely updated to exclude lapsed and cancelled membership
- Messages should be brief, positive, and informative and look to celebrate success as appropriate.
- Assume that any message or pictures you post might appear in print and do not use inappropriate language.
- Do not post anything which would cause hurt or embarrassment to an individual member of the Group or would cause reputational damage to the Club. **If unsure please check with a Club official before posting.**
- The Groups should not be used to promote any political or religious agenda, nor to engage in commercial activity other than the promotion of the Club.
- Identifying details such as a member's address, or telephone number should not be posted on social media platforms.
- Parents' permission for photographs or videos of their child to be posted on social media will be sought.
- Members should not communicate with children via personal accounts.
- Any concerns, including safeguarding, reported through social media should be dealt with in the same way as a face-to-face disclosure, according to our reporting procedures.
- Emails or messages will be used for communicating information (such as reminding parents of participating children or young people about upcoming events, which kit to bring or practice timings).
- If an adult/parent or a child (U/18) misinterprets any communication and tries to engage a member in conversation, the member would be justified in taking the following safeguarding steps:
  - ❑ End the conversation or stop replying.
  - ❑ Suggest discussing the subject further at the next practice or event.
  - ❑ Inform the NYC ~ CHD Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) in the interest of transparency.
  - ❑ For a child (U/18) copying the message trail and sending to the parent **unless the DSO advises otherwise.**

(with reference to RYA Safeguarding February 2020 and NSPCC January 2021)

**If you are concerned that someone is not following this Code of Conduct, you should inform the NYC ~ CHD Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO), club official or the person in charge of the activity.**