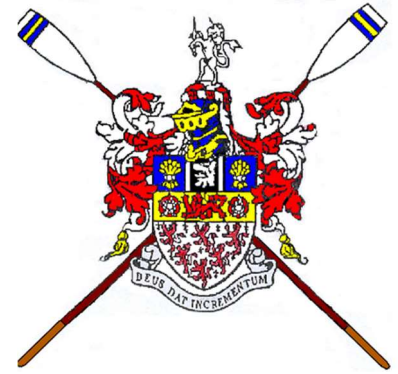


Warrington Rowing Club

Online safety policy



Taken and adapted from British Rowing's safeguarding handbook 4

All British Rowing clubs are encouraged to read the Online Safety and Social Media Policy. The policy guides clubs and coaches in the rowing community in the use of the internet and social media. It also outlines how we expect staff, coaches, rowers, volunteers, children, young adults, and adults at risk, who are members of British Rowing, to behave online.

The aims of this policy are:

- to protect all members, including children and adults with care and support needs, involved in British Rowing who use technology (such as mobile phones, game consoles and the internet) in connection with rowing;
- to provide staff and volunteers with information regarding online safety and ensure they know how to respond to incidents and concerns;
- to ensure everyone in British Rowing is operating in keeping with our values and within the law regarding online behaviour.

In the policy, you'll find information and guidance on:

- understanding the online world;
- safe use of social media;
- using mobile phones or other digital technology to communicate with children;
- use of other digital devices and programs;
- webinars and live streaming;
- keeping children and young people safe online;
- top tips for children on how to stay safe online.

You can access the Online Safety and Social Media Policy on the British Rowing Safeguarding page.

Section 4 – Clubs running websites or social media pages

We recognise just how valuable good websites and social media pages are for clubs who wish to develop and grow their membership. We want to ensure that all clubs that run websites and social media pages understand how to manage their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

We want to help clubs ensure children, young people and adults in positions of trust are not subjected to improper online behaviour or improper allegations. Remember, as a club, you are responsible for making sure that all content hosted or published on your website, or social media account(s), abide by British Rowing's Code of Conduct, and Section 3 of this handbook.

4.1 – Online conduct

When operating websites or social media accounts, it is important to be vigilant and monitor your site, as well as social media pages, if you are interacting with members of the public online. Whoever is in charge of handling your clubs' online presence should be mindful to monitor comments or posts to ensure that they are not:

- racist;
- derogatory;
- sexist;
- discriminatory;
- abusive;
- homophobic;
- offensive; or
- of a bullying nature.

If your club does encounter these comments online, you can report these comments to either:

- the police, via 'Stop hate crime', via their online reporting feature, or;
- the Internet Watch Foundation

If not dealt with appropriately, comments made on your website or social media page(s) that are abusive, racist or homophobic, could lead to legal action being taken against those responsible for posting or hosting them.

Clubs should advise children and young people that they should always tell a trusted adult about any comment or post they see that has made them feel uncomfortable, or if they've been asked not to tell someone about a comment or post they have seen.

4.2 – Best practice for staying safe online

To help your club ensure it is keeping its websites and social media pages as safe as possible, we recommend that you take the following steps.

- Appoint an appropriate adult(s) to monitor the content of your website regularly. They should understand what inappropriate content or comments look like and remove these.
- Make sure everyone in your club knows who is responsible for monitoring the content of the website and social networking areas, and how to contact them if they wish to report something.
- Apply the principles detailed in Section 3 of this handbook to your online activities.
- Signpost people to the CEOP 'Report Abuse' button so they can report hateful or abusive content.
- Signpost children and young people to ThinkUKnow.co.uk, which offers age-appropriate advice to children, young people and parents on internet safety.
- Ensure that thorough risk assessments are carried out before you consider hosting message boards, forums or blogs that may open your club up to potential risks. If you do decide to use them, ensure they're password protected and only allow comments or posts from people who are known to the club. It is also important to have users sign up to a Code of Conduct.
- Ensure members know that the club is responsible for all content on its website, including forums, blogs, tweets or social media posts.
- Ensure privacy settings are locked to the designated individual responsible for handling the clubs' websites and social media pages.

In addition, clubs should not:

- post children's or young people's details (including addresses, mobile phone numbers and email addresses) where they can be seen or used by others;
- post details of children or young people that would lead to them being identified, e.g. school, class/year, rower profiles including ages/sizes/weights etc;
- publish and host pictures of people who have not given their consent, especially children etc for whom express written consent is required;
- post or publish content which may be considered to be abusive, offensive, racist, discriminatory or otherwise may cause harm to others.

Written: November 2024

Next review: November 2025