St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club

WhatsApp Group Policy

1. Purpose of the WhatsApp Group

The St Mary's Richmond Athletics Club WhatsApp Community Group is for:

• Sharing training information

• Communicating event details and race updates

• Notifying members of schedule changes

• Celebrating club achievements

• Sharing relevant running and athletics information

The group is intended to support communication within the club in a respectful and positive manner.

2. Age Restriction

This WhatsApp group is strictly for members aged 16 and over.

• No person under the age of 16 may join the group.

• Junior members under 16 must have communication managed through parents/guardians or official club channels.

• Members who are 16 or 17 years old must have parent/carer approval to become a member, and a parent or carer must also be a member of the WhatsApp group

This is to ensure safeguarding compliance and appropriate communication standards.

3. Appropriate Use

Members must:

• Be respectful and considerate at all times

• Keep messages relevant to club activities

• Use appropriate language (no offensive, discriminatory, or inappropriate content)

• Avoid excessive messaging or spamming

• Respect differing views and opinions

4. Safeguarding & Conduct

• No private messaging of junior members under 18.

• No sharing of personal contact details, photos, or videos of members without consent.

• Any concerns about behaviour should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer.

5. Prohibited Content

The following are not permitted:

• Inappropriate, abusive, or discriminatory language

• Political campaigning

• Religious debate

• Commercial advertising not related to club activity

• Forwarded chain messages, misinformation, or unrelated media

6. Privacy & Confidentiality

• Do not share screenshots or messages from the group outside of the group without permission.

• Respect members' privacy and personal information at all times.

7. Administration

• The group will be managed by appointed Club Administrators.

• Administrators reserve the right to remove posts or members who breach this policy.

• Serious breaches may be referred to the Club Committee and could result in disciplinary action.

8. Agreement

By remaining in the WhatsApp group, members confirm that:

• They are aged 18 or over, and if between 16 and 18 have parental/carer permission

• They agree to abide by this policy

• They understand that breaches may result in removal from the group

Written March 2026