

## WhatsApp Policy

SCSC Squad WhatsApp groups exist for the rapid communication of notices relevant to the squad - pool closures, timetable changes, gala entries, lateness etc. The WhatsApp group is intended solely for the dissemination of information. *Please note that all formal communication with SCSC must still be submitted via email.* However, there is no issue with informing us through the group chat as an additional courtesy or backup, provided that the formal email is still sent.

Furthermore, the use of telephone numbers obtained through this group for personal contact is strictly prohibited unless prior permission has been granted by the individual concerned. This restriction applies equally to all members, including group administrators.

# Parents should adhere to the following guidelines when using squad WhatsApp groups:

#### Any parent who does not adhere will be removed from the group without notice.

- The group should never be used as a platform to air views/grievances regarding a coach, swimmer, or parent in the club
- The group is not a political platform for airing opinions on current affairs
- The group should not be used for private conversations with anyone else using the group
- The group should be used keeping in mind mutual respect and cultural sensitivity between all its members
- Members are reminded to exercise discretion when using emojis. Excessive or inappropriate emoji use is not acceptable. While simple acknowledgements such as a thumbs-up are generally clear, other emojis may be open to misinterpretation and could lead to unnecessary confusion.

#### Please note, SCSC considers the following online activity unacceptable:

- Abusive or personal comments about coaches, swimmers, or parents
- Bringing SCSC or their coaches into disrepute
- Posting defamatory or libellous comments









- Emails circulated or sent directly with abusive or personal comments about coaches' swimmers or parents
- Using social media to publicly challenges SCSC'S policies or discuss issues about individual children
- Threatening behaviour, such as verbally intimidating staff, or using bad language

### **Raising Concerns**

SCSC takes safeguarding responsibilities seriously and our Welfare Officer will deal with any reported incidents appropriately.

If you are concerned about inappropriate comments on a squad WhatsApp group, please contact our welfare officer @ welfare.scsc@outlook.com

#### Date of revision and record of amendments:

Date of amendments	Section Heading	Page Number	Paragraph Number / Notes





