



Group Communication with U18's

For the purpose of this guide the word "Parent" refers to any Parent, Carer or Guardian.

The intent of this guide is twofold, first to give guidance to coaches on what is acceptable with the setting up of a group communication with Athletes and secondly to inform Parents on what to expect.

Communication

The club's chosen method of communication with families is the WhatsApp platform and text message. The primary function of this is to inform athletes and their families of any changes to training times or give advanced notice of events etc.

Setup of a Parents WhatsApp Group: (Coaching groups - J12, J13, J14, J15)

For these coaching groups the coach of each group should setup a WhatsApp group with at least one Parent of each athlete in their group.

What should Parent expect?

- Information related to change in training times
- Advance notice of Events and requirements for this event

What should the Coach expect?

- Parent of each athlete should read the message and only reply with the correct content. For example
 - Coach: Please let me know if there is anyone that will not attend training on Sunday.
 - Parent A: Mary will be at training.
Incorrect Response
 - Parent B: John will not be at training.
Correct Response

Parents have the option of texting the coach directly should they not wish to post their message on the WhatsApp group.

Messages and photos posted to the group cannot be forwarded to any third party without the prior permission of the Coach.

Should a child move to another coaching group, the parent should leave the group. As part of the change in coaching group the receiving coach will make arrangements to be added to their WhatsApp group.

Setup of an Athlete and Coach WhatsApp Group

(Coaching groups J15, J16, J17, J18)

The club actively encourages young athletes to take responsibility for their training. We feel strongly that in order to build the relationship between the Coach and the Athlete, the Athlete should respond to the Coach and not their Parent. To this end we encourage the coaches where they feel it is appropriate to setup an Athlete and Coach WhatsApp Group.

The Communication within this group may contain but is not limited to:

- Information related to change in training times
- Videos/Photos from training sessions
- Links to websites with information on Rowing
- Advance notice of Events and requirements for this

event

The communication within this group should not contain:

- Any commentary good or bad towards any individual, athlete or coach.
- Any subject matter that is not rowing related.

If an Athlete and Coach WhatsApp group is being setup, all the parents of that group should be informed of the existence of the group and should give written consent via form LRC-D0011.

If a parent does not give their written consent the parent can be facilitated via a Parents shadow group.

Setup of a Parents Shadow Group

Where a Parent does not give their consent, then the following group can be set up if required.

Information in this group is only one-way traffic.

- Setup a Parent and Coach group with at least one of the coaches in the group and the parents that have requested to be included from the particular group.
- Setup each coach as an Admin.
- Copy all messages sent regarding training/event's to the Athlete and Coach group to this group within a reasonable time frame.
- Videos / photos of training sessions will not be posted to the Parent / Coach group.
- Parents of those Athletes who are not on the Athlete and Coach WhatsApp group should text or WhatsApp the coach directly if their child is unable to attend training.

Maintenance of WhatsApp groups.

Throughout the season movement can occur within coaching groups. Therefore there is a requirement to maintain the WhatsApp group so that the members who are active rowers are all receiving necessary updates. It will be the responsibility of the coach with the admin access to ensure that members in the group are up to date and accurate. Changes to the members in the group can include rowers who move into a new coaching group; rowers who leave mid-season; new rowers joining the club or lapsed attendance. Lapsed attendance is defined as an active rower who is not attending training and their coach or the club has not been notified of the reason for the absence and the absence has exceeded more than three weeks with no contact from either the Athlete or their parent or guardian.

Parents who wish to raise or discuss an issue with the Coach/s should do so as per "Parent/Guardian to Coach Communication Guide" document LRC-D0005