



Hythe & Saltwood Sailing Club

Social Media Policy *Updated 11-03-2025*

This policy and its associated guidelines has been introduced in response to guidance from The Royal Yachting Association ("RYA").

Social Media – includes but is not limited to any and all online applications and chat forums such as Facebook, Instagram, X, Telegraph, Strava, WhatsApp, etc.

Policy Governance

This Policy applies together with the requirements outlined in the HSSC Privacy Policy (lawful use of personal data) and the Code of Conduct (conduct requirements to meet membership to the RYA), the Safeguarding Policy and all applicable governance requirements.

General Terms

HSSC operates club member social media groups whereby current club members are added by HSSC Committee moderators. Membership to all HSSC Social Media groups is:

- Open to current club members over 18 years of age
 - o Members under the age of 18 will only be in a HSSC Social Media group at their Parent/Guardian's consent and
 - o the Parent/Guardian monitor the posts of the junior member to ensure compliance

Usage Requirements

- All users must comply with the requirements of the software provider (i.e. Terms and Conditions outlined by Facebook, etc.)
- When posting on any HSSC social media group, users must comply with the requirements outlined in the Policy Governance section above and
 - o Are reminded that comments must reflect the values and conduct required of HSSC members

Online behaviours

Please use common sense and consider the audience of the group and the impact comments might have on others, including the image of HSSC. This group should be about sharing information and experiences relating to sailing and water activities within HSSC. It cannot be used to exert undue influence or harassment of others.

- Adult users over 18 years of age must comply with all Safeguarding requirements when making comments about junior members aged 17 years and under
- Adult users must receive prior written permission from the parent/guardian of a junior member before sending any direct message (DM) to the junior member

What to do:

- Be respectful, kind, polite and civil
- Use common sense
- Use your best judgement at all times. If you're uncertain if something is inappropriate or questionable, don't post it
- Respect copyright and fair use – always give people proper credit for their work, and make sure you have the right to use something before you publish, for example, photographs
- Protect your privacy as well as that of others

What not to do:

- Don't use offensive or inappropriate language or images
- Don't air grievances about other club members, the club, or other posts
- Don't advertise products or services not previously sanctioned by the HSSC Committee
- Don't publish a photograph of a junior member (U18) without the written consent of the junior member AND their parent/guardian

Club responsibilities and review of breaches

The group administrator(s) monitor posts and any post that does not comply with the requirements outlined above, may result in one or more of the following:

- The user will be asked to remove the post or have it removed by the administrator
- The incident will be reported to the HSSC Committee for review
- The user may be removed from the social media group
- Serious and/or repeat offenders may have their membership revoked

Reporting an issue

Members who want to report an issue should not respond within the social media post/chat.

- Message [insert contacts here] for review

For more information please contact;

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