

Communicating with athletes



Under 16s

Parents of U16s must be offered the option to be copied into messages that their child will be sent. If they decline, a record of this must be kept.

If a parent has requested to be copied in, or if you have not yet offered this option, you must copy in a parent to any messages to U16s.

If an U16 contacts you first, reply including a parent or colleague if required (unless there is exceptional circumstances such as safeguarding concerns).

Although parental consent is not required for young people aged 16 -17, it is still recommended that their parents are informed of the intention to send their children messages. If group messaging is being used for U18s, there should always be another adult in the group (ideally one male, one female).



Under 18s

CONTENT

Messages should reflect the professional relationship between athlete and coach. Avoid over-familiarity or language that could be misinterpreted. Never use offensive, abusive, or inappropriate language. Consider setting group 'ground rules' so that athletes are aware of the group's purpose.

WhatsApp groups are encouraged for communicating training or camps/competitions arrangements. If U18s are in the group, there should be min. 2 adults (ideally one male, one female).

Photos are only permitted if they relate to canoeing activity (e.g. to communicate timetables).

Groups should be deleted after they have served their purpose.

The content guidelines above must be adhered to.

