



Celtic Harriers Club

Brookside, 11 Imam Haron Rd,
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www.celticharriers.co.za

Celtic Harriers Club Official Social Media and WhatsApp Group Policy

Approved by the Celtic Harriers Club Executive Committee –09/11/2025

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Preamble

Celtic Harriers Club (“Celtic Harriers”) is committed to fostering a positive, inclusive, and respectful community both on and off the road. This policy ensures that all communication through social media and messaging platforms upholds the values, integrity, and reputation of the club.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidelines for responsible communication and conduct by Celtic Harriers members, administrators, and representatives across all social media and messaging platforms, including WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter), and similar platforms. The policy seeks to:

- Protect the reputation and integrity of Celtic Harriers.
- Promote respectful and inclusive communication.
- Ensure compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA).
- Provide clarity on acceptable and unacceptable conduct.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to:

- All registered members of Celtic Harriers.
- Any person participating in official or unofficial club-related social media or messaging groups.
- All online communication that references or represents Celtic Harriers, its members, or its activities.

3. Principles of Communication:

Members are expected to:

- Communicate respectfully, courteously, and in good faith.
- Uphold the spirit of sportsmanship and camaraderie that defines Celtic Harriers.
- Avoid any language or behaviour that may be discriminatory, offensive, or inflammatory.
- Support a culture of encouragement, inclusion, and mutual respect.



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4. POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) Compliance:

Celtic Harriers recognises and upholds the importance of protecting members' personal information.

All members are required to:

- Refrain from sharing another member's personal details, including phone numbers, email addresses, photographs, or any other identifying information, without their explicit consent.
- Avoid forwarding or posting screenshots, messages, or images from any club group to external platforms or individuals without permission.
- Understand that participation in a club WhatsApp or social media group implies limited consent for others in that group to view your shared content; however, that content may not be reused or redistributed elsewhere without your consent.
- Report any misuse of personal information (including the unauthorised use or disclosure of phone numbers, email addresses, or images) to a club Exco member immediately.

Group Administrators are responsible for ensuring that:

- Members are added only with their consent.
- Group membership lists, contact information, and email databases are kept secure, used only for official club communication, and not shared with third parties.

5. Conduct and Behaviour Guidelines

Members are reminded that they represent Celtic Harriers whenever they communicate in or about club-related matters. Accordingly:

- Be respectful and inclusive in all discussions.
- Celebrate achievements, support fellow runners, and contribute positively to the club atmosphere.
- Keep posts relevant to running, fitness, club activities, and community matters related to the sport.



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- Avoid posting grievances or personal disputes in public or group chats. Such issues should be directed to the Club Exco via private message or email.

6. Prohibited Content and Actions:

The following are strictly prohibited on all Celtic Harriers social media and messaging platforms:

- Defamatory, abusive, or discriminatory language.
- Comments or content that bring the club, its members, sponsors, or partners into disrepute.
- Hate speech, bullying, or harassment in any form.
- Political, religious, or divisive commentary.
- Advertising, spam, or unauthorised promotions.
- Inappropriate images, sexual content, or offensive jokes.
- Chain messages, scam warnings, or unrelated media (e.g. 'good morning' or unrelated community alerts).

7. Official Club Groups and Administrator Roles:

- The Group Administrator acts on behalf of the Club and is empowered to add or remove members in line with this policy.
- Members must not request the addition or removal of others; such actions are at the discretion of the Administrator in consultation with Exco.
- All official communications from the Club will be shared via designated 'Official' or 'Training' groups.
- The Club accepts no responsibility for the content of independent or unofficial groups not managed by Celtic Harriers Executive Committee.

8. Disciplinary Action for Breaches:

Failure to adhere to this policy may result in:

- Immediate removal from the relevant group(s).
- Formal warning or disciplinary process as determined by the Celtic Harriers Executive Committee.



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- Possible suspension or termination of club membership for repeated or serious breaches.

All disciplinary processes will be handled in line with the Club's Constitution and Code of Conduct.

9. Reporting and Support

Members are encouraged to report any inappropriate conduct, privacy concerns, or breaches of this policy to a member of the Executive Committee or the designated Group Administrator. All reports will be treated confidentially and addressed promptly.

10. Review and Amendment

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required by the Executive Committee to ensure relevance and alignment with current legislation and club values. Amendments may be made at the discretion of the Committee, and members will be notified of any updates.

Approved by the Celtic Harriers Executive Committee;

Date of Approval: 20 November 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Myron Jardien".

Myron Jardien
Chairperson

Celtic Harriers Club