Riverside WhatsApp Use Policy

With WhatsApp becoming commonplace for coordination of several different club activities (including but not limited to: Club Social Tennis Sessions, Team squad communications, communication about court booking etc....) It is felt necessary to have a policy outlining best practice for their use and safeguarding of our members. There are GDPR issues if the groups are “club run” so they must remain “private” groups run by an administrator rather than run by the committee.

Adults Only

Only Adults should be members of WhatsApp groups used for coordinating Club activities:

- Under 16s should not be contacted via WhatsApp or be part of any Club WhatsApp groups
- If you need to contact an Under 16 member (e.g. in a Team communications group or for court booking or access problems) use their parent’s/guardian's as the contact.

Consent

Players joining a Whatsapp group should have given their consent (verbal is ok) to join the group and should be aware of the objectives of the group and that their details will be shared with other members of that WhatsApp Group. Whereas many of the groups will be made up of other club members, players should be aware that these are not club run groups and may consist of non-members too (i.e. beginners’ courses when some players do not need to have joined the club).

Clear Objectives For Each Group

WhatsApp Groups should be used solely for the purpose for which they have been established:

- The group administrator should act as moderator for the group.
- Although these groups will not be run by the club, we do take our safeguarding responsibilities seriously so if content is posted that is not relevant to the groups purpose or which is considered inappropriate for the group, the moderator should report the post to the Club Welfare Officer and Club Chairman who will determine what action should be taken.

Club Chairperson: Louise Cary 22/7/26

Club Welfare Officer: Michelle Smith 22/7/26

Policy to be reviewed on 22/7/2029 or earlier if legislation or LTA guidance requires.