



Mikkeller Running Club Liverpool

WHATSAPP GUIDELINES FOR CLUBHOUSE CHAT

CONTEXT

Mikkeller Running Club Liverpool's Clubhouse Chat on WhatsApp started during the COVID19 Pandemic to allow runners to connect during the various lockdowns. It provided a valuable space for sharing activities like club runs, but also for connecting with other people when social activities were limited.

Since the lockdowns, both the club and the clubhouse have expanded, and the Clubhouse Chat is now the main way we as a club communicate. There are over 200 members in the Clubhouse Chat many of whom do not know each other, so it is increasingly important that all members of the club recognise what the purpose of the Clubhouse Chat is.

MRC Liverpool are proud of our principles of being a supportive running club that is open to all, and the WhatsApp chat should reflect this ethos.

We have very rarely, had incidents in the past where people have posted content in the chat, which is offensive or problematic to others within the group. We have dealt with this privately, but we are keen to make sure that incidents like this do not happen in future.

We have set out this as a guide for club runners new and old, so please read it carefully. Contact us if you have any questions, or would like to raise any issues about the chat.

GUIDELINES

- As the Clubhouse Chat is one of our main ways of contacting everyone, members of our committee regularly make important announcements about club events. Due to the limitations of WhatsApp, we can only display a limited number of messages at a time within the chat. If we make an announcement, please refrain from posting about different topics straight after, as announcements can easily get lost in the volume of posts.
- Please be mindful that in a group of so many people, there is likely to be differences of opinion and belief. Think before you post. Short, text-based posts and GIFs etc. are open to misinterpretation across a wide group of people who may speak different languages or dialects.
- Always remember that the chat is a public forum. Think about whether someone might find your post offensive before posting it. Remember that one person's banter may cause others to feel uncomfortable or unwelcome in the running club, which is the opposite of our club's ethos.

- You should only use direct messaging when necessary, or through invitation. We do not allow unsolicited messages to other members of the chat. It is best to DM someone only if it is relevant and appropriate.
- Do not worry if you cannot make all our events. There is no need to apologise to everyone in the chat – just come along to whichever club events you can!
- The main purpose of the clubhouse chat is to promote the activities of MRC Liverpool. While you may also be a member of other running or social groups, please refrain from posting other activities where they clash with MRC Liverpool events.
- Try to avoid in-jokes. They can often be confusing and alienate members of the chat.
- Please do not spread rumours or misinformation on the Clubhouse Chat. Committee members will only make announcements based on official recommendations, or regarding public safety.
- We do not and will not tolerate any forms of discriminatory, derogatory, or otherwise offensive posting within the Clubhouse Chat.
- If you want to check whether it is OK to post something, please contact either Andrew Carey (Club Captain), Oliver Carey (Vice-Captain) or Andy Davies (Club Secretary) and we will be happy to help.