



WhatsApp Community Rules

The WhatsApp messaging platform is increasingly used for club communications. The Club has recently established two Whatsapp communities to streamline communications across various groups:

- (i) **Hackney Aquatics Club** for HAC-only squads and communications; and
- (ii) **HAC & Anaconda** for combined HAC and Anaconda squads and joint club communications.

These are the rules of engagement for all participants to abide by to ensure that these communities and related Whatsapp groups are safe, positive and constructive for all.

1. The WhatsApp communities are intended for parents/carers of U18 swimmers (and masters swimmers). Participation by children aged 18/U is strictly prohibited for safeguarding reasons and as a requirement of Wavepower (Swim England's safeguarding policy, found here: <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>).
2. Community members should abide by Wavepower and the HAC/ASC Code of Conduct for Parents/Carers (or the HAC/ASC Code of Conduct for Coaches) as applicable to usage of the WhatsApp platform at all times.
3. WhatsApp communications should not replace more formal means of communication (email, in-person meetings) where appropriate.
4. The WhatsApp communities should be used to facilitate and further the aims and activities of HAC (and ASC) only.
5. Matters which are personal or private to an individual swimmer should be addressed to the relevant coach (or other club personnel) in a private forum and not in group messaging.
6. Complaints or criticism of other community members, swimmers, coaches or club personnel should be raised in a private forum and not in group messaging.
7. Remember and respect the fact that most coaches are not engaged by HAC/ASC full-time (and so usually have other work or study commitments) and that all committee and other club personnel are volunteers (and usually have full-time jobs and/or other commitments).

Failure to comply with the WhatsApp Community rules could result in removal from the WhatsApp Communities and associated groups.