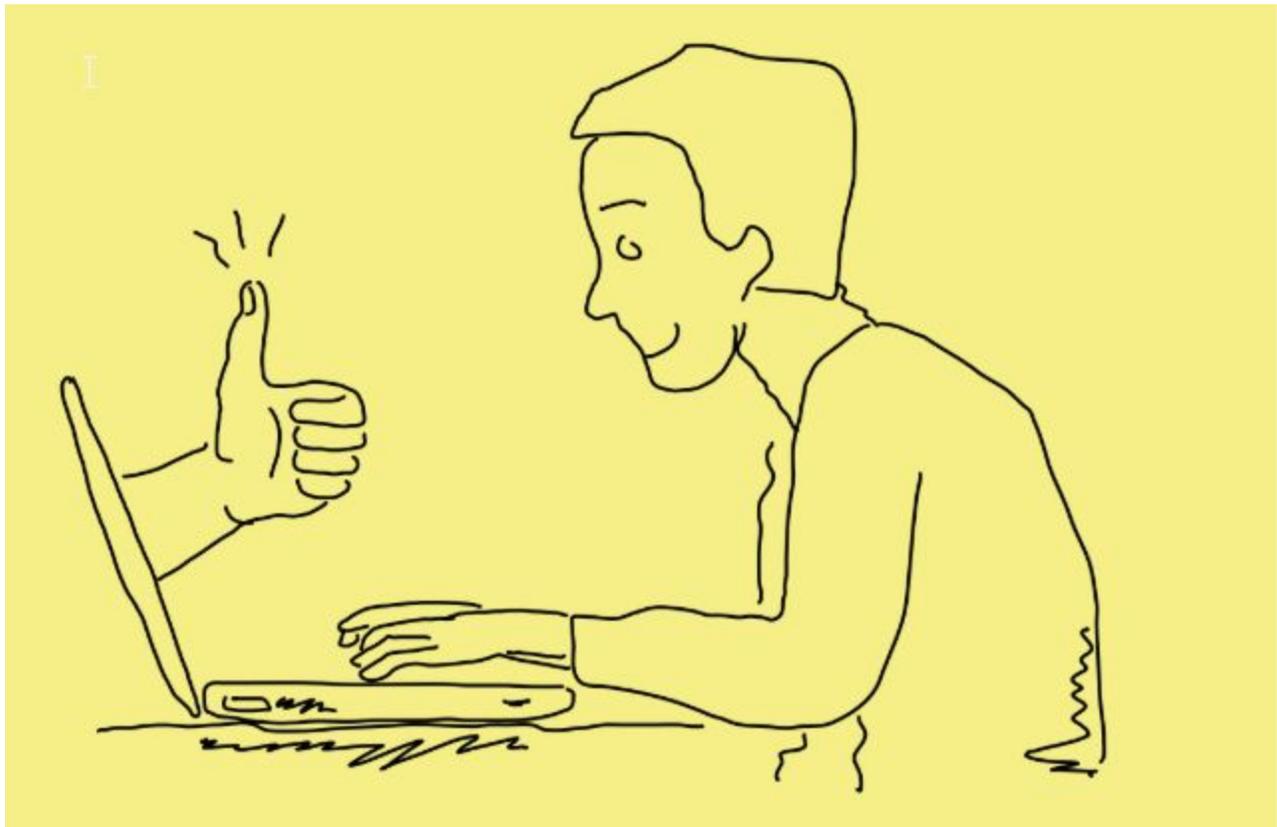




Donaghmore/Ashbourne GAA club Messaging app policy & guidelines Oct-2019



Due to GDPR, the GAA do not endorse the use of 3rd party messaging platforms like WhatsApp, however until an approved app can be used it is understandable that these messaging apps will be used. This policy is to protect parents, mentors, players and the club in case of misuse of a messaging app.

WhatsApp is the most prominently used application but the policies noted here will apply to all messaging applications. Whatsapp/Viber/Teamer/Clubify etc.





When setting up a group, send a private text to all parents and seek approval first. You must not add a phone number to a group without prior approval. Someone may not want their number in a group which means you have used their data without their consent if you add them.



"Mary hurt her hand in school today so she wont make the match tomorrow, can you rearrange match for Sunday"

"Zak cant make training this evening, he has piano"

Club Whatsapp groups are to be [administrator post only](#). They are for one way informational, team and club related posts and announcements. If you currently admin a group, make it admin post only explaining it is now club policy. This prevents inappropriate posts & exchanges and multiple non-important replies which are the biggest complaints from parents.

Minors(16/17 yrs old) can be on a team whatsapp group with parental request* (see notes) but the parent **must** be on the group too. A minor must never be messaged or replied to privately.

Any underage player who is called to play up, or their parent, must not be included in the older team whatsapp group. This avoids confusion when asking for player availability for future games(**).



[GAA Child Welfare & protection guidelines](#)



~~"That full back Paul had a terrible game today, he'll never be a good player"~~

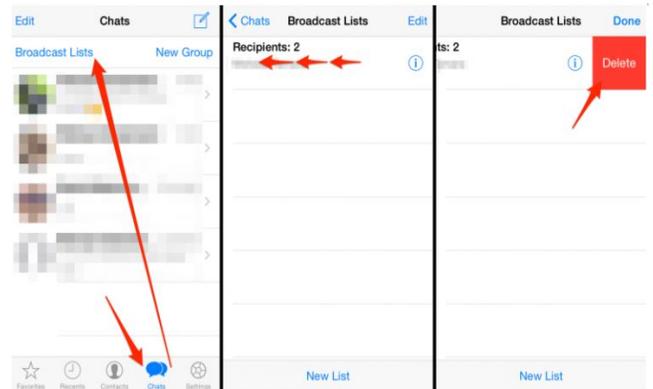
Club Whatsapp groups are not for motivational messages or funny pictures or videos no matter what your own personal thoughts of them are.

Just do NOT send them.

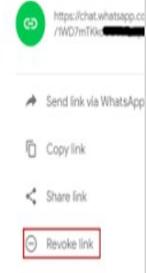
Individual or Disciplinary issues are **never** to be discussed in any messaging format, in either parent or mentor groups. WhatsApp groups are for team and club related messages only.

Availability requests. Many mentors use the [Teamer app](#) for getting confirmation for match availability. If you do use teamer and someone does not have the app, they'll receive a text from Teamer but a charge is applied for the text. [Whatsapp Broadcast lists](#) can be setup to send a group message that individuals get privately that they can reply to. **Important: If a parent does not have you in their contact list they will not get the whatsapp broadcast list message.** Make sure the parent has you added as a contact.. There is nothing more frustrating than a parent that doesnt reply but they can't reply if they don't get the message.

Group txts are always an option for availability.





<p>Revoke the whatsapp link to share the group so the group is private. This prevents anyone else unauthorized with the link from joining the group.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open Whatsapp > navigate to the group whose invite link is to be changed.2. Open Group Info of their group.3. Click on Invite via link.4. You should see a link already present. Now click on Revoke link and on the confirmation pop-up click Revoke link.5. The invite link should be changed now making the old link invalid. 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open your WhatsApp account.• Go to the group you want to delete.• Tap on the group name.• You'll see all the list of all the members of the group.• Exercising your Admin rights, remove all the members from the group.• After removing all the members, click on "Exit group" option.• Then, there appears the option of "Delete group".• Hit the "Delete" button.	<p>Always delete the whatsapp group when finished with it. Do not leave it open each year. This is a GDPR requirement. If you are to re-use a group the following year, remove members who are no longer part of that team or committee.</p>
<p>This policy comes under the club code of behaviour. A breach of this policy is a breach of club code behaviour that all mentors sign up to in their club membership. Please respect it.</p>	

These policies have been created to keep members safe online. For any questions around this policy email the club PRO at pro.donaghmoreashbourne.meath@gaa.ie.

Notes:

- * If a parent does ask for a minor to be added to a group remind them that they'll be sharing their number with all members of the group.
- ** If you have a player not of age in your whatsapp group(eg u14 player on u15 group) and you send out a general availability request for a match on whatsapp, you create an expectancy that the child is playing when they are not part of the group. Keep them separate for this reason.