



## Weightlifting Ireland

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# Communication Policy

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### Our commitment

Our primary form of communication with members will always be through our website: [www.weightliftingireland.com](http://www.weightliftingireland.com).

Electronic communication is essential for sharing federation news and information with our members. Our communication will be timely, appropriate and related to sport, weightlifting and our athletes.

### What we will do

Our communication will protect members' privacy, maintain clear boundaries and ensure that bullying and harassment does not occur.

A webmaster will be appointed to provide accountability and control over material published on our organisation's website and any related discussion groups or social media websites, including but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or Twitter.

The Public Relations Officer will be in control of all Social Media pages.

### Website

Our website will include current information on competitions, social events, committees, policies, event calendar, rules, constitution, and bylaws.

We will do our best to ensure no offensive content or photos are published.

Weightlifting Ireland will make every effort at the event to ensure permission is given directly by the guardian when photographing a minor. Any and all photos will be utilised in line with our photographic policy, any and all images reported as inappropriate, or requested for removal will be removed by the PRO.

We will seek feedback from members to improve the information available on the site.

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## **SMS and email**

Committee members, coaches and team managers may use SMS and email to provide information about competition, training, organisation-sanctioned social events and other organisation business, however:

1. SMS messages will be short and only concerning organisation/team matters.
2. Email communication will be used when more information is required.
3. Communication to minors will be directed to the minor's designated parent or guardian.

## **Social media websites**

We treat all social media postings, blogs, status updates and tweets as public 'comment'.

Postings (written, photos or videos) will be family-friendly and feature positive news and events regarding the organisation.

No personal information about our members will be disclosed.

No statements will be permitted that are misleading, false or likely to injure a person's reputation.

No statements will be permitted that might bring our organisation into disrepute.

Abusive, discriminatory, intimidating or offensive statements will not be tolerated. Offending posts will be removed and those responsible will be blocked from the social media outlets.

## **What we ask you to do**

We expect our members to conduct themselves appropriately when using electronic communication to share information with other members or posting material on public websites connected to the organisation.

Electronic communication:

1. Should be restricted to matters of the organisation
  2. Must not, intimidate, humiliate or bully another person.
  3. Must not be misleading, false or injure the reputation of another person.
  4. Should respect and maintain the privacy of members.
  5. Must not bring the organisation into disrepute.
  6. Coaches and Club staff who work with minors must ensure all material posted on public websites regarding minors has been approved by the minor's parent or guardian.
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## **Non-compliance**

Members may face disciplinary action for sending inappropriate electronic communication or posting online content or comments that harass, offend, intimidate or humiliate another member, as outlined in our member protection policy or code of conduct.

Under certain circumstances, cyber bullying (e.g. bullying that is carried out through an internet service such as email, a chat room, discussion group, instant messaging or website) is a criminal offence that can be reported to the police.

In addition, members who publish false or misleading comments about another person in the public domain (e.g., Facebook, YouTube, Instagram or Twitter) may be liable for defamation.