Online Safety & Communications Policy

1. Purpose

EVO uses messaging and social media to organise training, share news and build our community. This policy keeps that communication safe, open and appropriate, especially for under-18s, and sets out how coaches, volunteers, members and parents are expected to behave online when it touches EVO.

2. Group chats and messaging

- EVO group chats (for example on WhatsApp) used for club business are for adults: parents and adult members. Under-18s are not added to adult group chats; their parent or carer is their point of contact.
- Group chats have at least one EVO administrator (a director or the DSL), who can see messages and remove anyone behaving inappropriately.
- Chats stay on topic: training, events and club matters. They are not a place for argument, gossip, or anything that would breach the Code of Conduct.
- **No coach, trainer or volunteer has private one-to-one online contact with anyone under 18.** Communication with a young person goes through their parent or carer, or in a group that a parent is in.

3. Social media

- EVO's official accounts are run by named people on behalf of the Academy. Personal opinions are not posted as if they were EVO's.
- We do not publish a child's full name alongside their image, and we only post images of members with the consent recorded on our Photography & Media Consent form.
- Coaches, volunteers and members use social media responsibly and do not post anything that could bring EVO into disrepute, identify a safeguarding matter, or harm a member.
- We do not accept or send friend or follower requests between coaches and under-18 members on personal accounts.

4. Online concerns and abuse

We treat online bullying, grooming, or any online concern involving a child or adult at risk exactly as seriously as one in person, and we respond under our Safeguarding Policies and the Safeguarding Response Procedure. Anyone can report an online concern to the DSL or Deputy, or directly to the NSPCC, CEOP (ceop.police.uk) or the police.

5. Review and related documents

Read alongside the EVO Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy, the EVO Code of Conduct, the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Photography & Media Consent form. Reviewed annually.

Came into force: 15 June 2026 **Last reviewed:** 15 June 2026 **Next review due:** 15 June 2027

Signed (Designated Safeguarding Lead): _____

Name: Adam Moverley **Date:** _____