

Westerville Rowing Club Member Code of Conduct

The Ultimate Team Structure

To be successful in achieving our mission, it is essential that families, athletes, coaches, staff and the Board work together as a cohesive team. Working together, we will have a strong influence on our relationships that can be based on civility, honesty, and respect, and by helping young people become educated, mature, and responsible young adults.

We will, individually and collectively, do our part to create and maintain trust, respect, and care throughout the club by accepting responsibility for our own actions and those of others. We make this commitment to ensure that each of us may grow both in knowledge and in wisdom and that we may leave this organization having enriched it by our presence.

Westerville Rowing Club ("WRC") recognizes that making mistakes, acknowledging them and learning from them are critical parts of the educational experience. We also recognize that, in many instances, corrective action is the best method of disciplining behavior.

Participation on the team is a privilege, not a right, and should be treated as such. It has many benefits and brings with it a responsibility to be positive and effective members of the team and the broader community.

Family Responsibility

Our athletes' safety and well-being are of principal concern, whether at the Boathouse, at races, on their school campus, or off campus in their private moments. In this spirit, we ask that WRC families, as members of this community, work cooperatively with the WRC to ensure the wellbeing of the athletes who are in our mutual charge. Families must comply with laws designed to safeguard young people, such as those governing health codes and consumption of alcohol and other drugs. The WRC presumes the use of common sense and responsibility by WRC parents or guardians. We presume that parties are properly chaperoned; that families confirm where children will be and under what specific conditions; and that athletes are guided to respect and obey the laws of the land and the rules of the Westerville Rowing Club or any organizations to which WRC is a partner.

Athlete Behavior

Athletes are the spokespersons for our organization when they represent us in the community, on our waterway and in athletic competition. Their actions are viewed by family and friends, opposing rowers, the local community, and the media. Their display of good sportsmanship will show the most positive things about themselves, their team, their coach and our program. Integrity, fairness, and respect are inherent principles of good sportsmanship. With them, the spirit of competition thrives, fueled by honest rivalry, courteous relations and graceful acceptance of the results. Swearing and inappropriate gestures are not allowed. Athletes will base their actions on honesty, integrity, and concern for the welfare of others; in doing so they will not lie, cheat or steal and will not condone such action on the part of others. Athletes will respect both the person, the property of others and the equipment of the rowing club. Athletes will behave respectfully toward one another and towards our competitors. Athletes will not participate in any theft and/or damage any property and will be held financially liable if such behavior occurs. All athletes will comply with the directions given by coaches, WRC staff and officials at events. Athletes should arrive in a timely manner for practices, training sessions, and competitions.

Alcohol - Drugs - Tobacco - Weapons

WRC has a policy of "zero tolerance" regarding substance abuse. The use of alcohol, drugs or tobacco (including any performance enhancing drugs) is strictly prohibited and will result in the coaching staff taking immediate action, regardless of whether or not the athlete is engaged in a team function at the time of the behavior; whether the athlete is a host or just a guest; whether the athlete merely remains present at events, activities or locations and therefore is in close proximity to where illegal distribution of alcohol, drugs or other performance-enhancing substances are present or used.

The possession or use of any weapon or firearm while at any WRC facility or while participating in any WRC activity is strictly prohibited.

By participating in WRC activities and/or trips, student athletes and their parents, or adult members agree to allow WRC Coaches and/or staff, based upon a reasonable suspicion of a violation of this Code, to search their bags and belongings for alcohol, drugs and other materials that may be in violation of this Code of Conduct.

Regatta/Activity (Junior Athletes)

Junior athletes will not drive themselves to or from any away regatta. They will not be in a room other than the one assigned by the team after the designated "lights out" time. Athletes may only be in the room of an athlete of the opposite sex with a public door open and if there are more than two athletes present (ie. No male athlete may be alone with a single female athlete and vice-versa). Junior Team rowers of the opposite sex are not allowed into each other's hotel rooms, except when a Coach or chaperone is present - and the same is true for anyone not part of WRC, except when a Coach or chaperone is present. Rowers may not leave the team at any time during a regatta trip without the express permission of their Coach or a chaperone.

Social Networking/ Electronic Device Usage

WRC athletes who access social networking sites (Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) should act responsibly and show respect for the rights and feelings of others. Gossip, insults, and libelous, demeaning, or derogatory pictures or comments about others, especially

teammates, coaches or Westerville Rowing Club are strictly prohibited. Threatening or harassing statements or pictures are also prohibited. Transmission of any sexually explicit communications or photos is also strictly prohibited. Athletes should exercise appropriate discretion when using social networks for personal communications with the knowledge that behavior on social networks or between electronic devices may result in disciplinary action regardless of purported intent.

_____ **Safesport/USRA Compliance**

This Code of Conduct is complementary to and does not replace the [WRC Athlete Safety Manual](#), the [SafeSport](#) rules implemented by USRowing or the [USRA Code of Conduct](#). Please see those documents for additional guidelines outlining athlete/member behavior and expectations which also govern the operations of the Westerville Rowing Club.

Major disciplinary action will include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Loss of on-water privileges for a specified time• Loss of race privileges• Suspension from the team for a period of time• Dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season• Expulsion from the team	Minor disciplinary action will include but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Verbal warning• Extra workout/alternative workout• Make-up practice• Written/verbal apology
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Acknowledgement

As an athlete with Westerville Rowing Club, I have read and understand the above Code of Conduct. Failure to adhere to the conditions and rules as outlined above will result in disciplinary action. Depending on the severity of the violation, consequences may include a warning, suspension, or expulsion from the team (including potential forfeiture of any fees paid). WRC grants the Program Administrator and Head Coach broad discretion in choosing and imposing consequences of athlete violations in communication with the Board of Directors. I understand that violations of this policy may affect my ability to participate in WRC programs and activities and may lead to the disclosure to USRA or other authorities details regarding the violation.

Athlete Name (Please Print)

Parent Name (Please Print)

Athlete Signature

Parent Signature

Note - Student Athletes (Secondary School and Below regardless of age) must sign and have a parent or legal guardian sign. Adults members not enrolled in secondary school or below may sign alone.

effective 4-1-2019