



St Mary's
University
**Students'
Union**

MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

1. PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 1.1 St Mary's University Students' Union aims to provide all of its members with the support and guidance that they need to achieve success. This Code of Conduct outlines the standard of conduct SMSU expects of its members in order to enable the overall membership to get the best out of their time at St Mary's and beyond.
- 1.2 This policy does not apply to the conduct of staff.
- 1.3 In line with the organisation's byelaws, SMSU has the right to terminate membership if a member's conduct is found to breach the Code of Conduct.
- 1.4 Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct constitutes misconduct and may result in students being referred to the University's disciplinary procedures

2. MISCONDUCT

- 2.1 The following shall constitute misconduct under the Members Code of Conduct, whether this occurs online or in person:
 - Violent, coercive, manipulative, indecent, disorderly, threatening, abusive or offensive behaviour to any student, employee of the University or St Mary's Students' Union or any visitor to the University or any member of the local community.
 - Abusive, threatening or offensive language (verbal or written – including social media websites) to any student, employee of the University or St Mary's Students' Union or any visitor to the University or any member of the local community.
 - Action likely to cause injury or impair safety on University or Union premises;
 - Harassment, including racial or sexual harassment and harassment on the grounds of the possession of any protected characteristic of any student, employee of the University or St Mary's Students' Union or any authorised visitor to the University
 - Damage to, or defacement of, University or Union property or the local community, caused intentionally or recklessly
 - Misuse or unauthorised use of University premises or items of property (including computer misuse and fire alarms or fire extinguishers)

- Non-compliance with the Union Financial Regulations and with any decision on the use of Union funds made by a properly constituted body of the Union.
- Non-compliance with the Union Regulations for conduct of Elections and meetings.
- Behaviour which could bring the University or the Union into disrepute;
- Failure to abide by Union and University policies and procedures including the Student Charter.
- Failure to act in the spirit of St Mary's Students' Union's values; inclusive, empowering, informed, collaborative.

3. STUDENT GROUPS

3.1 In addition to the principles outlined in 2.0, members of sports clubs and societies agree to:

- Display consistently high standards of behaviour and attitude when representing the activity in any environment
- Not abuse their position in the society to obtain personal benefit or reward.
- Ensure the proper handling of members' data and not share members' details or external marketing material without the members' consent.
- Adhere to the Social Media Policy

4. BREACHES

- 4.1 Where it is found that a member or group of members of SMSU have breached this Code of Conduct, they may be subject to disciplinary action and may incur sanctions.
- 4.2 Student leaders should not investigate a breach of the Code of Conduct and should not remove group members at their own discretion. They should instead escalate the issue to relevant members of SMSU staff.
- 4.3 Responsibility for the Code of Conduct sits with the Trustee Board. The Trustee Board then delegates responsibility to the SMSU staff team, supported by the Officer trustees.
- 4.4 All suspected breaches shall be dealt with in line with the Disciplinary Procedure.

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