

Principles for approving Sports Clubs and Societies

Worcester Students' Union is committed to the principles of freedom of expression as outlined in the joint University-SU [Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech](#). We are equally committed to ensuring that we comply with the Human Rights Act 1998. This includes our duties to ensure that our sports club and society approvals process does not impinge on our members right to freedom of expression.

These principles will be used by Executive Committee when considering applications.

- All of our societies and sports clubs must support our charitable objectives.
- We support a diverse student community and encourage open and respectful discussion of issues that matter to all or part of our membership.
- We respect the views of others.
- We will not approve any society that contravenes the Union's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy (Approved 2021). In line with the policy, we are committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and harassment and will support all those who could be or are marginalised as a result of their disability, race, colour, religious belief, ethnic or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy or maternity leave, age, marital status, civil partnership, or any other individual characteristic or intersectionality of different characteristics (this is not an exhaustive list).

The Union will treat every society or sports club proposal positively, however, we reserve the right to deny affiliation to any proposed society or sports club.

We will normally only disapprove of societies and sports clubs on the following grounds:

- The aims and objectives of the proposed society or sports club are not in line with the Union's charitable objectives, Bye Laws and/or our mission and values
- Their aims and objectives duplicate those of another society, sports club or network affiliated to the Union.
- Their aims and objectives or planned activities are unlawful.

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- They are not open to all students to join or exclude students in any way.
 - They have significant risks that cannot be controlled by the society or sports club or with support from Union's staff team.
 - If the costs of being involved are deemed to be unreasonable for a student to be able to afford.
 - The Union does not have the financial or staff resource to be able to support the society or sports clubs' proposed activities.
 - They promote racism, sexism and any form of prejudice against an individual or group of people.

If the Executive Committee decides to refuse an application it will communicate its reasons in writing, with justifications, to the committee of the proposed. As outlined in Bye Law 6 Point 16 any group refused affiliation by the Executive Committee may appeal to Student Council.