



## Junior use of Strava

Minerva Rowing Club is committed to providing a safe environment to enable the Minerva junior members to enjoy the sport of rowing and be a part of the training community. One way of achieving this has been using the Minerva Strava group. As an affiliated member of British Rowing, Minerva Rowing Club has adopted the British Rowing (BR) Safeguarding and Protecting Children Policy (<https://www.britishrowing.org/about-us/safeguarding/>) and we have put together a guide to help you support your child to stay safe online.

The Minerva Club Strava group itself is private and only those accepted into the club can be part of it yet there is a potential safeguarding risk to juniors due to the openness of the site if appropriate privacy settings are not set in their own Strava account. For example, a frequent running or cycling route used by a Strava user can be shared and seen by all, as can someone's home location. The profiles, activity and location information within the club can still be viewed by **any** user of Strava, unless the Strava user make changes to their privacy settings in their own account. Broadcasting training location information can lead to the misuse of this information, there are numerous examples of abuses of this that have been reported within the wider sports community. The Minerva Club administers its own Strava group, but we very strongly suggest that you and your child should review and set their privacy settings when they join Strava and periodically afterwards to control what you share and with whom. We strongly suggest that you follow the steps and as a parent/guardian of a Minerva Junior it is your responsibility to ensure the profiles are safe. Adults from the Main Committee and Junior Coaching team are part of the group and will administer the group including to record and report any behaviour or comment that is inappropriate or cause for concern.

We have therefore put together a guide for you and our juniors to ensure they are appropriately safeguarded whilst using this training app to connect to their club. The policies below make the sensitive information about location etc less accessible to other users outside of those you immediately follow on the app, but they also mean that the club itself does not lose the social impact it was meant to create.

- As per Strava's rules, members of the Minerva Club Strava group have to be over 13 years old.
- Either the Head Junior Coach or a nominated adult member who is actively involved in running Minerva junior activities will be administrators of the group and will record and report any behaviour or comment on anything that is inappropriate or a potential cause for concern.
- Before any of the juniors are admitted to the Minerva Strava group, we require that junior's parent or guardians check that the junior members' Strava account is set up with the following privacy settings:
  - The profile page has been changed from 'everyone' to 'followers'.
  - The personal email address is set as private.
  - Home address and any other frequented locations are private, this can be changed in 'Privacy Zones' settings in their own Strava account.
- Where a junior is below the age of 16, the junior co-ordinator will require written confirmation from the parent guardian that the junior has their consent to join the Minerva Strava Group and that their settings have been set as above.

Details on how to do this are below.

### **Guidance on Minerva Adult member's behaviour in respect of juniors on Strava:**

- Strava requires you to use a 'name' to join. Members can choose to use their (real) first name and/or second name or can choose to use their initial(s) or a pseudonym (i.e., 'Super Sculler' or 'Bow Seat') (but of course not a false name or anything offensive!). The Club Administrators will need to confirm the real name of anyone who applies to join, as necessary.
- Adult Minerva members may follow Junior members for the exclusive purpose of providing arms-length praise and support as a part of being in the Minerva community. Anything other than this may be considered inappropriate.

- Adult members will not interact in any way with Juniors on any other social media or messaging platform. The reason that this rule about interaction is less strict for Strava is due to both the administration by the junior team and the lack of private messaging ability.

Your Club Welfare Officer is here to listen if you need someone to talk to or are concerned about somebody's safety. You can contact our Club Welfare Officer, Katherine Richards on [welfareminerva@gmail.com](mailto:welfareminerva@gmail.com) for any queries, or for **disclosures** [welfare@minervabathrc.org.uk](mailto:welfare@minervabathrc.org.uk)



### **Strava settings for personal safety**

To set your privacy settings up appropriately, please use the guide below:

Change **'Profile Page'** from Everyone to **'Followers'** – this then limits the information available to non-followers.

Change **'Activities'** from 'Everyone to **'Followers'** – this then limits who sees where and when you exercise.

Add a **Privacy Zone** to your profile by adding your address and selecting a radius around that address where all GPS data will be excluded from all activities. You may add as many of these as you like to prevent sharing locations from multiple homes or other frequented locations.

To help you support your child's safe use of Strava please see the following links for further information:

<https://www.strava.com/settings/privacy>

<https://www.britishrowing.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WG.-5.4-Online-Safety-2020-October.pdf>

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/online-safety/>

<https://www.cyclingweekly.com/news/latest-news/strava-privacy-settings-how-to-use-them-367411#:~:text=The>