

Guidelines & regulations for Kerala Radiology
Whatsapp groups - 2021

IRIA Kerala



Dr. M. C. J. Prakash, President
Dr. Rijo Mathew, Secretary



WhatsApp

COMMITTEE

Dr. Vinod Sukumaran - Chairman
Dr. Ramesh S. Shenoy - Convenor
Dr. Rajesh M. G.
Dr. Jose Kuruvilla
Dr. Suresh Babu M. P.
Dr. Sarath Chandran

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Introduction: Kerala IRIA proudly conducted the first general election in the history for the selection of governing executive council members, marking an end to the tradition of consensus. 516 members cast their e-voting from May 10 to May 13, 2021 conducted by the national IRIA approved agency under the able electoral officer Dr. Govindhan Nair. In this situation of pandemic, whatsapp turned out to be the only mode of communication between the members and election campaign. However, there were some instances of irregularities, defamatory remarks and misappropriate usage of this mode of communication with breach of conduct at times.

As a result the idea to bring in a Regulatory Committee to bring reformation and restrict right code of usage in Official Kerala IRIA whatsapp groups was thought and put forth by the current President Dr. M. C. J. Prakash and Secretary Dr. Rijo Mathew to prevent future irregularities.

As per the directions of President and Secretary, a committee was formed on 20.05.2021, appointed Dr. Vinod Sukumaran as chairman and Dr. Ramesh S. Shenoy as convenor of the committee. Dr. Jose Kuruvilla, Dr. Rajesh M.G., Dr. Sarath Chandran and Dr. Suresh Babu M. P. were inducted into the team.

Objectives: To empower responsible, sensible and respectful mode of digital communication

- I. Outlay basic configuration of the Kerala Radiology whatsapp groups
- II. Rules and Regulations
- III. Code of Conduct
- IV. Election Mandate usage
- V. Grievance redressal

1 OUTLAY BASIC CONFIGURATION:

As of date 20.05.2021, there are 728 life members and approximately 180 provisional life members. Each whatsapp group can accommodate maximum 257 members.

Clause A: 250 members shall be accommodated in each and remaining 7 reserved for the admins. Provision for 4 whatsapp groups as of date.

Clause B: All 728 members be enrolled into the whatsapp group preferentially in the alphabetical order sequence.

No duplication of member within single or multiple groups except the admins.

Admins change with every new executive council formation.

Clause C: Title of Group KERALA RADIOLOGY (1, 2, 3, 4 respectively)

C (i) : Inclusion of link to access all IRIA related links shall be included in the description of the group https://linktr.ee/iria_kerala

Clause D: Criteria for Admin selection

President (Present and Elect) and Secretary of KERALA IRIA

Member of the current Executive council of KERALA IRIA as per recommendation of clause D (a)

Member appointed by the President or Secretary of KERALA IRIA.

Number not exceeding more than seven in number

Clause E: Role of Admins:

Enrollment of the members based on verification of their membership in Kerala IRIA.

To ensure accessibility to all eligible members.

To ensure no duplication of same member in single or multiple groups.

To warn any member violating the ethical code of conduct or act against the interests of the association.

Authority to remove those members who violate above said inspite of warning.

To take up any suggestions and modification from time to time

Grievance redressal.

2: RULES & REGULATIONS :

Should be a KERALA IRIA member.

Group meant for academic and professional related discussions between members.

Preferably posts confined to Radiology.

Avoid political, religious, obscene, derogatory, promotional, advertorial or inflammatory posts or forward posts.

Strictly no to abusive language.

Social and entertainment as far as not offending anybody or unacceptable to the interests of radiology community

Brief personnel announcements are fine.

Strictly no defamatory posts pertaining to the persons or functionary of the association.

Clause A : Responsibilities of the individual members

To maintain harmony and integrity of the radiology community and association.

Being a member of the group implies the consent to follow the rules and regulations of the whatsapp group conduct.

Violation or breach of conduct warrants expulsion from the group and subject to the disciplinary action of the association.

Any suggestions, grievances or modifications be directed to the admin of the group or the concerned association member.

3: CODE OF CONDUCT:

Clause A : Responsibilities of the individual members

1. Should be member of KERALA IRIA
2. To maintain harmony and integrity of the radiology community and association.
3. Being a member of the group implies the consent to follow the rules and regulations of the whatsapp group conduct.
4. Violation or breach of conduct warrants expulsion from the group and subject to the disciplinary action of the association.

Any suggestions, grievances or modifications be directed to the admin of the group or the concerned association member.

Section A : Regarding Defamatory posts:

According to Section 499 of IPC, whoever, by words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person, is said, except in the cases hereinafter expected, to defame that person.

Section 499 also cites exceptions. These include “imputation of truth” which is required for the “public good” and thus has to be published, on the public conduct of government officials, the conduct of any person touching any public question and merits of the public performance.

Section 500, which is on punishment for defamation, reads: “Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.”

In India, defamation is both civil and criminal offence. The remedy for civil defamation is covered under the Law of Torts. In a civil defamation case, a person who is defamed can move either High Court or subordinate courts and seek damages in the form of monetary compensation from the accused. Also, under sections 499 and 500 of the IPC, a person guilty of criminal defamation can be sent to jail for two years.

Clause B : Any proceedings related to defamation in the group shall be first intimated to the concerned admin or concerned association executive for redressal.

If not resolved in the association tribunal then its upto the discretion of the victim he/she shall proceed further to seek legal intervention.

Any redressal directly intervened by legal discourse without intimation of the association office is a breach of association interests and shall be entitled for disciplinary action.

4: ELECTION MANDATE:

The election officer becomes one of the admin of all the whatsapp group on declaration of the election and all the rules and regulations as per the existing constitutional bylaws (Central IRIA guidelines 2A , 2B) regarding the election code of conduct shall be applicable to the whatsapp group.

President elect and current president shall continue to be in the list of the group admin.
Rest of the admins on discretion of the electoral officer.

5: GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL:

All grievances to be addressed to the admin of highest constitutional heirarchy .

A call upon the dispute shall be addressed as per the constitution byelaw prevailing at the time.

Clause A : Mode of Action :

If any whatsapp post or comment violates the rules and regulation or code of conduct or complaint by any participant directed through the admin shall be intimated.

If no satisfactory explanation or apology is received to the authority within the stipulated time or norms shall be considered a violation. The aforementioned person shall be expelled from the group and if needed shall be subjected to the disciplinary action.

Declaration:

"We stand here by the grace of GOD in right conscience and thoughts and for the benefit of association to plan and look forward for bright and best intentions for Kerala IRIA".

Above rules and regulations are framed consciously and responsibly with the welfare of association as the top priority by a committee headed by Dr. Vinod Sukumaran and Dr. Ramesh S. Shenoy. We submit the same to the President of KERALA IRIA Dr. M. C. J. Prakash and Secretary Dr. Rijo Mathew on this day 30th May 2021 for approval and further ratification.

signed by,



Dr. Vinod Sukumaran



Dr. Ramesh S. Shenoy



Dr. M. C. J. Prakash
President, Kerala IRIA



Dr. Rijo Mathew
Secretary, Kerala IRIA

30.05.2021