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Joining List Policy

1 Policy Purpose

This document records the 30th Warrington West (Penketh Methodist) Scout Group's **Joining List Policy**. It is used to set expectations for volunteers, members and their parents.

2 Details

Where sections have no spaces for additional young people, a joining (or waiting) list shall be operated. The joining list will be managed by the Group Scout Leader and the Membership Secretary.

The allocation of places on the joining list shall be managed according to the following priorities:

1. Parental involvement in Group

Where a parent already volunteers for the Group, or is willing to take on a volunteer role in the Group, priority may be given based on the potential benefit to the Group.

2. Succession within the Group (Moving Up)

Where an individual is already in the Group and ready to move up to an older section, places shall be maintained to allow them to progress. Should the older section be full, the individual will be considered only once they have reached the regular age for that section (Cubs 8 years old, Scouts 10.5 years old).

3. Existing family involvement in Group

Where an individual has siblings in the Group, priority shall be given over those with no connection.

4. Existing Beavers, Cubs or Scouts moving to the Group

Existing members of Scouting relocating from outside of the Group and wishing to continue their Scouting journey.

5. Date of Birth and Time on List

Places shall be allocated according to age, with older applicants receiving priority. Where individuals are within 6 months of each other, the length of time they have been on the joining list shall be taken into account.

Where an individual is aged within six months of the regular upper age limit for a section, (Cubs 10.5 years old, Scouts 14 years old) they will offered the chance to join the older section.

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To ensure adherence to the priorities, all enquiries to join the Group will be handled through the joining list. The joining list is stored in the Group's administration system, Online Scout Manager (OSM). All enquiries will be acknowledged by an automated return email and followed up with personal contact to qualify the interest.

The membership of sections often depends on child/adult ratios, so if there is a joining list, then it could be prudent to ask about helping out. In the event that a place cannot be offered in an agreeable timeframe, the applicant will be advised of other groups in the locality.

The final decision to offer membership of the Group to any young person rests entirely with the Group Scout Leader. There is no *"automatic right"* to membership, regardless of how long a young person has been on the joining list and, as such, there is no right of appeal. This does not affect a young person's rights under equality legislation or the Scout Association's Equal Opportunities Policy.

This document was adopted by the 30th Warrington West (Penketh Methodist) Scout Group's Executive Committee.

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