

Member Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct translates our constitutional rules into clear guidelines for all members to ensure our meetings remain supportive, professional, and fair for everyone.

1. Business & Category Integrity

- **One Member, One Business:** Members must focus entirely on the single core business approved in their membership application.
- **No Multi-Business Representation:** You may only have one business represented in the Circle. This applies even if you hire a manager or proxy representative to run or sit in for a second business.
- **One Representative, One Business:** A single attendee cannot represent more than one business at any meeting. You may only pitch, display materials for, or promote the approved business category tied to your membership during meetings.
- **Consistent Representation:** To help build strong, reliable relationships within the group, we ask that the same representative attends our weekly meetings. Permanently splitting a seat between multiple staff members is not permitted, though occasional substitutions are fine if you are away.
- **No Category Hopping:** You cannot represent more than one business category. Any permanent change to your business category requires a new application to the committee.

2. Attendance & Participation

- **Show Up for the Room:** As a weekly breakfast club, consistency is key. Members are expected to maintain active attendance.
- **The 50% Rule:** To keep your seat, you must attend at least 50% of the club's events over any 12-month period.
- **No Unannounced Absences:** If you miss four consecutive meetings without communication, the committee reserves the right to cancel your membership.
- **Event RSVPs:** If you RSVP to an extra event organized by the committee and do not attend, you may be charged for any costs incurred.

3. Financial Responsibility

- **Fees Paid in Advance:** Subscriptions are currently £70 per month, payable in advance on the 1st of the month via GoCardless Direct Debit.
- **No Pay-As-You-Go:** Fees incorporate breakfast and are due monthly regardless of whether you are able to attend the meetings.
- **Fair Cancellation Notice:** If you choose to leave, you must give one month's written notice before the 1st of the month. Leaving halfway through a month means you remain liable for the following month's fees.

4. Professionalism & Reputation

- **Protect the Group's Name:** Members must adhere to high professional standards of conduct. Any behavior deemed to bring the reputation of WBC or its members into disrepute can result in immediate termination.
- **Respect the Guest Process:** Always clear guests and their business types with the Chairperson first to prevent category conflicts and ensure a welcoming environment for everyone.

5. Committee Authority & Governance

- **Decisions are Final:** WBC is run by a volunteer committee elected by the membership. To ensure the smooth running, safety, and fair treatment of all members, all decisions made by the committee regarding membership, category disputes, and constitutional enforcement are final and binding.
- **Exceptional Circumstances:** We understand that unique, unforeseen, or exceptional situations can arise in business and life. If you are facing unusual circumstances that impact your attendance, representation, or membership, please come and speak to us. The committee is always willing to listen, consider individual cases with empathy, and work with members to find a sensible, fair solution.