

Bones of the matter:

Community guidelines 1, 4, 5, and 8 actively thrown to the curb in the past week.

1: Moderators, upon backlash to the rule decision, from the community, left to seek approval in other subreddits, referring to the community they moderated as, "bigots and chuds". {2}
In response to brigading, moderators have automated shadowbanning on the subreddit {6}, but this has silenced previous lurkers of the subreddit who were beginning to join community efforts in appealing the ban. Those lurkers coming to the surface resulted in the subreddit climbing to 5th in the count for most comments per day across all of reddit.

4: By taking the stance of "No matter how much they spam, we won't back down. They'll get bored eventually." (Quote from comment, now deleted, by moderator alttiantila.), it's made apparent that discussion is not considered an option. Even the most recent mod posts show that the decision is not seen to be flexible, regardless of community rejection.

5: Head moderator gaffer88 has stated himself that he takes a "hands-off" approach to moderation of the community and that he's not aware of the day to day issues. Regardless, he decided to step into the issue and pass judgment as a moderator not active in the community whatsoever.

The community also takes issue with the lack of responses from the moderation team, even though there was a discussion thread posted, but to be fair, there are so many people trying to participate in the subject that they are overwhelmed. I can't hold it against them. The issue is that big.

8. THE MAIN PROBLEM. The Animemes moderation team over the past WEEK has effectively ignored the massive community pushback against a rule implemented suddenly, and with no community consultation whatsoever. For the first time in the history of the subreddit, subscribers are dropping. Peaking at 934,000 and at 906,461 as of typing, the effect on the community is visible in a way that has not been seen in its history.{5}

The meat of the matter:

I did my best to be objective about the matter, so I hope you won't mind a bit of pathos.
To start, this is not a transphobic community. The word trap as it is used by the subreddit, and most of the anime community as a whole, refers to a male who wears female clothing and identifies as a male. We use it to reference characters that are male but appear female at first glance. If at any point it comes to light that a character is, in fact, trans or closet trans, we no longer use the term. Full stop. Unknowing members are quickly informed, and we move on with the matter.

We only take slight issue on the misunderstanding, and we could have talked about this with the moderation team, had there been any room for discussion. THE ISSUE, is the brash, authoritarian, and antagonistic manner with which the matter was handled. There could have been a dialog, there could have been communicating with other communities, there could have even been a simple poll, but instead, the moderation team decided that their community was full of "bigots and chuds" and decided to treat nearly one million users like children. The angry fire was further fueled upon the revelation of the disdain that select moderators held for their constituents.

We don't want anger, we don't want banned moderators, we want to have a discussion. Not blanket censorship with the expectation of obedience. The moderation team as a whole is not at fault. Moderators such as SharkTRS are doing the best they can to answer questions, but one good mod trying to work with 900k users isn't going to help much without those above him trying to solve the situation as well. Admin intervention is not what this should resort to, but what choice is there when the users are being ignored? As a heavy lurker who tried to participate in a discussion for the first time ever, I am affected by the current shadowban and no longer have a voice in the community I've been throwing upvotes at for nearly 4 years now, and can do nothing but watch it burn. I just want everyone to get along.

Thank you. I hope you have a good day.

Sources:

{1}

https://www.reddit.com/r/Animemes/comments/i2mn3g/rule_5_update_as_of_today_the_word_t_rap_is_now/ (Initial mod post)

{2}

https://www.reddit.com/r/SubredditDrama/comments/i2tyzn/ranimemes_bans_usage_of_a_word_considered_a/g0iiojt/?context=3 (Picture of deleted comment. <https://i.imgur.com/T5fCkKl.png>)

{3} https://www.reddit.com/r/Animemes/comments/i4om23/pls_dont_remove_this/g0kj2u9/ (gaffer88 hands off statement)

{4} https://www.reddit.com/r/Animemes/comments/i5tmsb/regarding_community_feedback/

{5} https://www.reddit.com/r/Animemes/comments/i5quw8/were_here_to_talk_ask_us_anything/g0r_ecf4/ (Graph of sub count drop posted by Animemes moderator)

{6} https://www.reddit.com/r/Animemes/comments/i6e46d/daily_erwin_meme_968/g0yx6mx/ (Automated shadowbanning)

{7} <https://subredditstats.com/r/animemes> (Shows first sub count drop in history, record comments per day)