



Duty of Care And Changing Facility Policy



Duty of care to swimmers in changing facilities

1. Under the duty of care to safeguard members, the club and parents/guardians have a joint responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms.
2. Parents/Guardians of children under the age of 8 years old must remain within the pool venue for the duration of the swimming session.
3. Parents/ Carers of children with additional needs should have a discussion with the teacher/coach to agree their location during the session.
4. While the children are training, they are under the responsibility and care of coaches/teachers.
5. Parents/Guardians should be at the venue at the end of the session to take over the responsibility of their child once they leave poolside.

Responsibility during a Club session

1. Where a member is arriving at a Bath Dolphin session via a car, parents/guardians are requested not to just drop them off at the roadside/car park and come back later to pick them up. It is requested that members are escorted to and met at the pool facility. ***This is particularly important as there may be a late notification by the pool authority that the facility is closed.*** Bath Dolphin will do its utmost to notify all members in such situations by e-mail and social media but times scales may be compressed due to its volunteer's commitments (e.g. personal, family, employment).
2. While training, the child is under the responsibility of the Club coaches/teachers. Club coaches/teachers are not able to supervise or take responsibility for swimmers once they leave the pool area.
3. A swimmer must ask the coach/teacher to leave the pool area.
4. If a young person fails to return within a reasonable time or appeared upset when leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher will request that a suitable club member check on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the swimmer. (The second person could be a parent or older swimmer.)
5. If the club receives a complaint about any incident that has occurred between a swimmer and any other person, the club has a duty to act upon that concern and will investigate the matter appropriately.

Changing facilities at venues used by the Club

1. Bath Sports & Leisure Centre is a mixed changing village shared with the public.
2. University of Bath is separate showering facility but mixed changing village shared with the public.
3. Kingswood School is separate sex changing rooms shared with other groups.
4. Monkton Combe Prep School is separate sex changing rooms shared with other groups and its leisure club members.

Swimmers conduct whilst using changing facilities

1. Swimmers will respect the privacy of others in the changing rooms.
2. The use of mobile phones in the changing rooms is not permitted, this is to protect members against images being taken and allegations of taking images.
3. The club has high expectations of behaviour and language of its swimmers in the changing rooms. They are required to be responsible and respectful to all users/valuables/premises and not cause disruption.
4. Swimmers should adhere to the Code of Conduct.

Conduct of parents/guardians whilst swimmers are using changing facilities

1. Children 8 years and over must use the gender appropriate changing room.
2. Parents/guardians should not be in the changing room whilst the children are changing, unless their child is of an age where help is required or requires additional specific assistance. This is usually seven or eight years of age. In such circumstances, the parent/guardian must be the same gender as the child, unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a mixed changing village.
3. Parents/guardians must supervise any younger siblings in the changing rooms to ensure the privacy of the swimmers is respected.

Responsibility after a session is completed

1. Parents/Guardians must ensure prompt collection of their children at the end of training sessions (and competitions). There have been instances where Bath Dolphin volunteers have remained present for over 30mins to ensure a (young) member has been collected safely (and rather sadly on occasions without a "thank you" or acknowledgement of being late).

This policy has been devised using Swim England Wavepower 2016-19 guidelines > [Here](#)