



## **Broomfield Park Swimming Club**

### **Changing Room Policy (based on Wavepower 2020-23)**

This policy is based on the Swim England Changing Room Policy guidelines detailed in Wavepower.

#### **Duty of Care to Swimmers in Changing Facilities**

- Under the duty of care to safeguard children, the club has a responsibility for the well-being of children in the changing rooms.
- This responsibility is shared with the parents/carers of the swimmers.
- In order to exercise this duty of care, parents/carers of children attending Learn to Swim teaching sessions must remain within the pool venue for the duration of the swimming session.
- Parents/carers of children in the club's other squads may leave the venue but must ensure they are contactable at all times via the emergency contact details provided.
- If, however a swimmer has specific needs or for those children with a disability, the club requires parents to remain at the venue for the duration of the session.
- Parents / carers must be at the venue at the end of the session time to take over the responsibility of their child once they leave poolside.
- The club has a reasonable duty of care to its members, which extends to an awareness on the part of the club that junior members have been collected, in so far as possible, at the conclusion of a session (i.e. that a member is not left unsupervised if a parent/guardian is late). This duty of care is age appropriate i.e. a 17 year-old is capable of getting themselves home, but a 12 year old is not.

#### **Responsibility during a Club Session**

- While training and poolside the child is under the responsibility and duty of care of the coach or teacher.
- A swimmer must ask the coach or teacher to leave the pool area.
- If the young person fails to return within a reasonable time or appears to be upset when leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher will request that a suitable club official to check on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the swimmer. (The second person could be a parent or an older swimmer).
- 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 in line with Wavepower guidance and will investigate the matter appropriately.
- If the incident involves a person not associated with the club, the pool manager should be alerted.

#### **Changing Facilities at venues used by the Club**

- Changing facilities at the various school pools are separate for males and females.
- Some changing facilities at the venues we use in competitions, e.g. Southbury Leisure Centre are mixed changing villages, and some are also shared with members of the public.
- Whilst using competition venues with mixed changing venues, children should change in separate areas, and not use the same or adjoining cubicle areas.

#### **Swimmers Conduct Whilst Using Changing Areas.**

- We have high expectations of its swimmers and require them to act sensibly and respect others and their valuables and not too fool around causing disruption and annoyance to other users and to follow the Club's Code of Conduct.

#### **Conduct of Parents and Carers whilst Swimmers are using Changing Facilities**

- Children 8 years of age and over must use the gender appropriate changing room and change independently.
- If you need to accompany your child, who is under 8 years of age you must change them in the parent's gender changing room.
- No parent should ever be in the wrong gender changing room
- Swim England and BPSC does not advise adults to supervise changing facilities, as that places them and children at risk of harm and allegation. Parents should not be in the changing rooms whilst swimmers are changing unless the swimmer is younger than 8 years of age and needs help or requires specific additional help to change (if older than 8 and help is needed please contact the Welfare Officer to agree how this can be met), unless the facility has family changing or is a mixed changing village. The club may place a club officer or appointed helper on the outside of the doors. This allows children to call for assistance if required.
- Parents must supervise non swimming siblings, especially in the changing areas and while on the balcony/stair areas at all venues.