

Greenwich Royals Swimming Club: Changing room policy



*Incorporating SwimEngland's relevant policy,
as set out in Wavepower 2020-2023*

1 Objectives

- 1.1 Greenwich Royals Swimming Club (GRSC) is committed to a club environment in which all children participating in its activities have a safe and positive experience. A child is defined as someone under the age of 18.
- 1.2 To clarify how parents/ guardians and members are to exercise a duty of care to safeguarding children and young people in swimming pool changing rooms.

2 Duty of Care to swimmers in changing facilities

- 2.1 Under the Duty of Care to Safeguard Children, GRSC has a responsibility for the well-being of children in the changing rooms of swimming facilities. This responsibility is shared with the parents/ guardians of the club's swimmers.
- 2.2 In order to exercise this duty of care, parents/ guardians of children attending teaching sessions (Learn to Swim) or whose children who might require assistance with changing or who might have a disability that requires additional help that the club is unable to provide, must remain within the pool complex for the duration of the swimming lesson.
- 2.3 Parents/ guardians of children and young people that swim in the Club's squads may be permitted to leave the complex during training sessions. During this time, the Coach will assume a duty of care and responsibility for the child until a designated adult returns to the pool complex (before the session is due to finish) to assume responsibility for their swimmer whilst they change.

3 Responsibility during a training session

- 3.1 Whilst a swimmer is training, they remain under the supervision and duty of care of the coach/ teacher.
- 3.2 A swimmer must not leave the pool area without the knowledge and consent of their coach or teacher.
- 3.3 If the swimmer fails to return within a reasonable time or appeared upset when leaving the poolside, the coach/ teacher will request that two persons leave poolside to search for the swimmer. These could be another coach, committee

member, parent or an older swimmer. If this is not possible, relevant employees of the facility or venue should be called upon to assist with the search.

3.4 If the club receives a complaint about any incident that has occurred between a swimmer and any other person, the Club will:

- Investigate the matter if the other person is a club member; or
- Inform the pool manager should the incident involve a member of the public.

4 Changing facilities used by GRSC

4.1 At most pools used by GRSC, the changing facilities are shared with other club members as well as with members of the public, some of which are configured as a 'Changing Village' with cubicles, meaning they are mixed-sex changing areas. This also applies to the facilities used for other events such as galas or open meets.

5 Conduct of swimmers using Changing Facilities

5.1 GRSC has high expectations of its swimmers and requires them to abide by their Codes of Conduct

6 Conduct of Parents and Carers whilst Swimmers are using Changing Facilities

6.1 It is not the policy of GRSC to encourage adults to supervise swimmers using changing facilities or to make such arrangement on behalf of the club. This is because such supervision could place them and/or the swimmers at risk of harm or allegation.

6.2 As such, parents/ guardians should not be in the changing rooms whilst swimmers are changing unless the swimmer is younger than 8 years of age or requires specific additional help to change. In such circumstances, the Welfare Officer should be informed.

The Committee of Greenwich Royals Swimming Club will review this policy at regular intervals to ensure it remains effective.