



This policy is based on Good Practice Guidelines on the use of Social Networking Sites by Swim England Clubs and Club members extracted from Wavewater 2020 – 2023. Its purpose is to ensure all Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club (the Club) members and parents follow best practice in respect of safeguarding in their use of social networking sites.

Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club Members under the age of 18

1. Do not ask your coach or teacher to be your friend on any social networking site – they will refuse as that would breach good practice.
2. Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at thinkuknow.co.uk for some useful tips.
3. Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
4. Always remember that any communication, comments, photos and video clips posted on a social networking site may be shared with more people than you originally intended.
5. Never share pictures of yourself or your friends that you wouldn't be happy for your family to see. Also, never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that:
 - May be hurtful, untrue or upsetting or that you may regret sharing later on.
 - May be used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.
 - Other people may find inappropriate
6. Do not upload images of other members taking part in your organisation's training, activities or events as you may breach the Club's Photography Guidance. If you do wish to upload such content, you must first seek the advice and consent of your parents/guardians, the consent of the other child and their parents/guardians, and an officer of the organisation before taking any action. This will not prevent you having images of your friends from the organisation on your personal social networking site, as long as they were taken outside of the sporting arena. Even so, it is still a good idea to check that any person in the image, and their parents/guardians, are happy for you to upload the image.
7. Always be aware that social networking websites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word. They are bound by the same laws and rules. The delivery of social networking content is instantaneous, and this can sometimes result in users reacting in the "heat of the moment", and your content/ comments may spread far from that of your own social network of friends. This is a major difference between the present and the past in which you would have written a letter which would have taken time and allowed for you to think again before sending. So never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing or say out loud to someone. To do so may not only breach Club Policy but also the law.

Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club Members aged 18 or over

There have been occasions where members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse an organisation, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and/or members in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has, in some cases, led the person who is the subject of the abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.

Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct for swimmers states that swimmers are expected to "Treat all members of and persons associated with Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club and Swim England with due dignity and respect...the use of inappropriate language or abusive language, bullying, harassment...will not be tolerated and could result in action being taken through the Club Disciplinary or Child Welfare Policy'

Members should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club may breach the Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct.



Parents of Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club Members under the age of 18

There have been occasions where parents/ guardians of members have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse an organisation, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and/or members in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has, in some cases, led the person who is the subject of the abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.

Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club's Parents Code of Conduct states that parents are expected to "Behave responsibly as a spectator at training/meets and treat swimmers, coaches, committee members and parents of yours and other clubs with due respect meeting Swim England commitment to equality".

Parents should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirement of a parent of Camden Swiss Cottage Swimming Club may breach the Club's Swimmers Code of Conduct.

Appendix One: Further Information, Guidance, and Sources of Help

Additional guidance on online safety can be accessed via the Child Protection in Sport Unit website at www.thecpsu.org.uk.

As a user of a social networking website, whether you are a child or an adult, you may have a concern about what you are seeing or being told by another user. Below is a list of agencies that you can contact, anonymously if you wish, where you can raise such concerns.

- O2 and NSPCC Online Safety website o2.co.uk/help/nspcc
- NSPCC Share Aware Resources nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety
- The NSPCC helpline *0808 800 5000* or www.nspcc.org.uk for adults concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.
- Childline childline.org.uk/get-involved/childline-social-media
- Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command ceop.police.uk/safety-centre
- Thinkuknow thinkuknow.co.uk
- Our Safety Centre oursafetycentre.co.uk
- NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/online-safety
- Internet matters internetmatters.org
- Childnet International childnet.com
- HM Government advice on keeping children safe online www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media
- The Local Police or Children's Services – their number appears in the phone book
- The Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) www.iwf.org.uk. The IWF was established by the Internet industry to provide a UK internet Hotline, which can be anonymous for the public and IT professionals to report criminal online content in a secure and confidential way. They work in partnership with other agencies to minimise the availability of this content, specifically:
 - Child sexual abuse images hosted anywhere in the world.
 - Criminally obscene adult content hosted in the UK.
 - Incitement to racial hatred content hosted in the UK.
 - Non-photographic child sexual abuse images hosted in the UK.