

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 area 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. On arrival at a City of Bristol Aquatics session, parents/guardians are requested not to drop them off at the roadside/car park and come back later to pick them up. It is requested that swimmers are escorted to and met, inside the pool facility. **This is particularly important as there may be a late notification by the pool authority that the facility is closed.** City of Bristol Aquatics will do its utmost to notify all members in such situations by e-mail and social media but times scales may be compressed due late notice.
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 always ask the coach/teacher to leave the pool area to use the toilets.
4. If a young person fails to return within a reasonable time or appears upset or ill when leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher will request that a suitable club member check on them. Where possible, two people - a parent and/or older swimmer.
5. If the club receives a complaint about the behaviour of a member, the club has a duty to act upon that concern and will investigate the matter appropriately.
6. Where a swimmer's poor behaviour becomes unacceptable or impinges on the safety of others, that swimmer will be asked to leave the session, the parent will be contacted and the swimmer will remain poolside until collected.
7. It is essential that parents keep their emergency contact details updated on the club Team Unify web site.

Changing facilities at venues used by the Club

1. Hengrove Park Leisure Centre is a mixed changing village shared with the public.
2. Redcliffe School Pool has separate sex changing rooms and showers.
3. Jubilee Pool has separate sex changing rooms and showers shared with other groups
4. Filton Pool mixed changing village with mix of cubicles and group changing room
5. Bristol University Pool has separate sex changing rooms and showers, shared with the public
6. Henbury School Pool is a mixed changing village shared with the public.
7. Bristol South Pool has poolside changing cubicles and shared showers

Swimmers conduct whilst using changing facilities

1. Swimmers must respect the privacy of others in the changing rooms.
2. The use of mobile phones in the changing rooms is not permitted. Any person seen using a mobile phone in the changing rooms should be reported to pool management immediately and the club Welfare Officer informed.
3. The club has high expectations of behaviour and language of its swimmers in the changing rooms. Every club member is required to be responsible and respectful to all users/valuables/premises and not cause disruption.
4. Swimmers should change in cubicles where provided, not open changing areas.

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 needs additional specific assistance. 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 are responsible for their children once they leave the poolside – this includes the changing rooms. Parents/Guardians must ensure prompt collection of their children from inside the premises, at the end of training sessions (and competitions). Young swimmers should not be expected to wander outside the building to meet parents in the car park or roadside.
2. In the unlikely event of swimmer not being collected at the end of the session, the swimmer should inform the Pool Management. City of Bristol Aquatics doesn't have staff available to wait with swimmers until they are collected.

This policy has been devised using Swim England Wavepower 2020-2023 guidelines >

APPENDIX – Covid-19 arrangements

On return to training at Hengrove Leisure Centre and following Swim England Guidelines, swimmers must arrive wearing a face mask and be beach ready (ie wearing swimwear under outer clothing).

Swimmers will enter the building following the one way system to the pool (currently via the open shower area) and follow the one way system to the far end of the pool where they will be shown a socially distanced space on poolside to change. Swimmers should remove their top clothing and face

mask and store inside one bag and remain in that space until directed to their training area by the coach.

At the end of the session, swimmers will remain poolside and use their towel to dry off and replace their top clothing leaving on their costumes, replace their face mask, then leave the pool area by the rear emergency exit or other designated exit as and when directed by the coach. Changing cubicles may only be used if permission is given by the coach, (ie. where swimmers are going straight on to school or on a long journey home). Lockers will be out of use.

Any lost property will be disposed of.

Swimmers must stay socially distanced throughout .

Parents must remain nearby and be ready to collect their swimmer from the pool exit on time.

It is important that parents are available to collect their swimmer early in the event of an emergency and ensure their contact details are up to date and available on club records.

IMPORTANT – City of Bristol Aquatics does not have staff to supervise swimmers once they leave the poolside. At this point swimmers become the responsibility of their parents.

Marion Britton

Welfare Officer, City of Bristol Aquatics

Amended 30/08/2020