



Parental/Guardian Responsibilities at Training/Galas and Changing Village policy

POLICY MANAGEMENT:

This policy was adopted by the Committee on 13 Sep 2017

Purpose:

To clarify the role of WDSC in safeguarding swimmers and young people at training sessions, galas and in swimming pool changing rooms and our expectations of Parents / Carers and Members.

Responsibility during a club session

- Whilst a swimmer is training or competing at galas / competitions they are under the responsibility (duty of care) of the person who is teaching / coaching / team managing them at that time on behalf of the club.
- If a swimmer leaves the pool area, the coach / teacher / team manager needs to be aware of this and it is the swimmer's responsibility to let the team manager/coach know. If a child fails to return in reasonable time, or appears upset upon leaving poolside the coach / teacher / team manager should request 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 senior swimmer or a parent).

Parent/Guardians of Younger Swimmers

- Swimmers under the age of 12 **should not be left at training or galas without a parent, guardian or nominated carer**. This is in case of illness, injury or session cancellation / early termination.
- Swimmers who are 12 and over should always have a means of contacting a parent, guardian or carer in case of illness, injury or session cancellation / early termination.
- WDSC will not assume responsibility for swimmers who arrive early for their training and are unsupervised in the leisure centre or at external galas.

Responsibility after a session is completed

- The ASA/Swim England view is that each affiliated club has a duty of reasonable care to swimmers, which extends to an awareness on the part of the club that their junior members



have been collected, as far as is possible, at the conclusion of a session, i.e. that a swimmer is not left unsupervised if a parent is late.

- This has to be age appropriate, i.e. the ASA Wavepower 2016-19 notes a 17 year old is capable of getting themselves home, but a 12 year old is not.
- However, at times when changing rooms are also accessible to non-club members for public swimming it is not reasonable to expect the club to search the changing areas in case a junior club member was there. In this case best practice is for all junior members and their parents to be aware that if swimmers are not collected by a parent, then they should make that known to a coach/Team Manager or the club Welfare Officer and for this individual to ensure that the club member is supervised appropriately until a parent arrives or the parent communicates alternative arrangements.
- If a parent fails to collect a child the club will follow the procedure outlined in the ASA Policy on Guidance on Late Collection of Swimmers¹.

Changing village

WDSC has a responsibility for the wellbeing of swimmers during training sessions and when in the changing village.

The ASA/Swim England advises adults not to supervise changing facilities as that places them and the swimmers at risk of harm and allegation. However WDSC sessions are run within leisure centres that have public swimming. The club hires the pool and not the whole facility, therefore as with all public swimming sessions, members of the public may be present in the mixed-sex changing village. Therefore the club has reviewed the policy guidance from the ASA and considered the risks and benefits associated with implementing these within the context of a public facility. WDSC may place a club officer or appointed poolside helper on the outside of the doors in and out of the changing village during meets / galas. This allows swimmers to call for assistance if this is required. The ASA/Swim England advises that this approach has proved helpful when swimmers have reported incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between swimmers in the changing rooms.

The ASA/Swim England advises that parents should not be in the changing village while swimmers are changing, unless your child is of an age where help is required (aged 8 and below) or your child requires additional support/assistance.

Direction for parents and swimmers regarding changing facilities

- Swimmers must be on their best behaviour in the changing village (before and after swimming) and respect others using the changing village and facilities. When using/sharing facilities with the public or in the public eye, swimmers are expected to behave at all times in a manner that upholds the good reputation of the club.

¹ Wavepower 2016-19 p.64
Revised September 2017



- Swimmers must respect the pool staff, pool facilities, equipment and other pool users when attending training sessions or open meets/galas.
- Swimmers are advised to use the lockers to secure their belongings, or take these on poolside.
- Swimmers are requested not to leave belongings in the changing cubicles and rooms as this prevents use by the general public.
- Swimmers are asked to change as quickly as possible whether at the start or finish of the event/training session and should not loiter in the changing village for longer than necessary; the changing village is not a 'social space'.
- Parents are advised not to enter the changing village whilst the swimmers are changing unless their child is under the age of 8 or where assistance is needed, where the child has a disability and needs specific additional assistance or to "hurry up"/ briefly check on an older swimmer.
- Parents and competitors will be informed at events where other clubs are involved if the facilities are likely to be open to the general public at any time during the meet.
- Parents are asked not to visit their swimmers in the changing village during galas as this may lead to misinterpretation or allegation.

Changing room incidents

- If a complaint is received that an incident has occurred in the changing village between a swimmer and another person in WDSC, the club has a duty to act upon that concern and investigate appropriately.
- If the incident involves a person not associated with the club, the pool manager should be made aware and consideration given as to whether the police or statutory agencies need informing.
- If swimmers notice any unusual behaviour by members of the public they are requested to make the coaches aware of this immediately. The coaches will notify the centre staff and the police / appropriate agencies will be called immediately.
- Where possible swimmers will be asked to notify the coach of the cubicle number. This is displayed on the inside and outside of the door.
- Any incidents should be reported to the Club Welfare Officer via welfare@wycombe-swimming.org.uk