



Newbury District Swimming Club

Lane Sharing between adults and children Policy

Wavepower 2016-19 Section 2.4 page 78

POLICY MANAGEMENT:

This policy was adopted by the Committee on 12th November 2018

Purpose

Swimming is a physical sport, and like many sports, there are inherent risks in taking part. Newbury District Swimming Club is committed to ensuring that any risks to participants are kept to an absolute minimum.

Whilst incidents within training sessions are rare, the club acknowledges its duty of care to all members alongside its duty to safeguard members under the age of 18. Sessions in which children and Masters (adults) train together can provide extra safeguarding implications.

This policy sets out the situations where lane sharing may occur and what procedures and considerations are made by Newbury District Swimming Club. This is in accordance with ASA guidance.

Policy

In sessions where children and adults share lanes the club officers and coaches will consider the risks involved and put procedures in place to ensure training activities are organised and concluded in as safe an environment as possible, minimising both the health and safety risks and any child welfare risks that these situations may pose.

Sessions where lane sharing occurs and specific safeguards

Masters and Youth squads

Masters and youth squads regularly train together. Safeguards put in place by the club are as follows:

- Youth swimmers shall be no younger than 14 years of age.
- Where possible youth and masters will swim in separate lanes.
- Where sharing is required it will be done in accordance with the policy below.

Morning sessions

In morning sessions there is a mix of all squads from Cruisers to Masters.

- Where possible squads would have their own lanes.
- Where sharing is required it will be done in accordance with the policy below.



Considerations in respect of lane allocation

In some sessions, limited pool space means that children under 18 may need to swim in a lane with adults during the session. In these instances, when allocating swimmers to lanes, the coach will perform a risk assessment to ensure the training session is likely to be incident free.

The coach assesses the potential risks to swimmers by considering the following factors:

- Ensuring suitability of lane supervision at sessions involving under 18s.
- Ages and gender of the swimmers.
- Relative sizes and abilities of the swimmers.
- The individual swimmers' lane discipline and precision of strokes.
- Any lane etiquette guides, e.g. re overtaking.
- The width of each training lane.
- The number of swimmers in each lane.

ASA guidance notes that consideration of lifeguards and spectators should also be assessed. For Newbury District Swimming club, spectators are able to watch all sessions, either directly poolside or behind glass overlooking the pool. All sessions have a life guard provided by the centre unless the coach is also a qualified lifeguard. The latter case is often so for the Masters and Youth sessions and for those sessions held at Brockhurst and Marlston House School.

For clarity, Masters who are training with younger members do not require a DBS check.

Any concerns can be raised with the Club welfare officer, whose details will be kept up-to-date on the club website. This can be done by phone or email.

Competitions hosted by Newbury District Swimming Club.

Where competition warm up involves both adult swimmers and children, the club will, where possible provide opportunities for groups of different abilities/physical sizes, or Masters Groups, to warm up at different times, or within separate lanes.