



## Dorking Swimming Club Changing Room/Village Policy



Under the duty of care to safeguard children, Dorking Swimming Club(DSC) has a responsibility for the well-being of swimmers during training sessions and when in the changing rooms.

**Purpose of policy:** To clarify the role of DSC to safeguard swimmers and young people in swimming pool changing rooms and our expectations of / Parents / Carers and Members.

**ASA advice on adult supervision:** The ASA do not advise adults to supervise changing facilities as that places them and the swimmers at risk of harm and allegation.

<http://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>

DSC follows ASA guidance on supervising children within the pool and changing room, and at events and competitions.

### Parent Supervision of Swimmers at Swimming Sessions.

DSC have decided that the following requirements will apply to all training sessions, galas and opens:

#### **Younger swimmers:**

An adult will need to remain at the pool to supervise a swimmer who is not at senior / secondary school (i.e. in Year 6 or below). The adult supervising needs to be aged over 16 and not in the pool at the time. This is in case of illness, injury or session cancellation / early termination.

If the adult is not a parent / guardian, the swimmer needs to know who is supervising them.

Where the swimmer isn't being taken home by the supervising adult, the adult picking them up should be at the pool 10 minutes before the end of the session.

#### **Older swimmers:**

For children at senior / secondary school the adult bringing them should stay long enough to ensure that the session is going ahead and that the swimmer has all their equipment. They should also be at the pool prior to the end of the session.

#### **All swimmers:**

While a child is training or being taught, they remain under the responsibility and duty of care of the person who is teaching or coaching them at that time.

If a member goes out of the pool area, the coach should be aware of this. If the child fails to return within a reasonable time, or appears to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach should request a suitable official to check on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the member (the second person could be a senior member or a parent).

If a swimmer has an injury or isn't feeling well it would be advisable for a parent/ guardian to stay to ensure that they are OK. If a swimmer gets out and there is no adult present it is not the responsibility of the coaches to supervise them outside of the pool area. Swimmers will be required to change quickly and return to poolside. If this happens frequently DSC may have to ask the parent to remain at all training sessions their child attends.

DSC will not assume responsibility for swimmers who arrive early for their training and are unsupervised in the leisure centre.

### Mixed Changing Village

Some DSC 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.

The ASA advise that parents should not be in the changing room 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.

The committee is recommending that parents/guardians only access changing rooms to support younger swimmers who may need help with changing.

Calling from the swim entrance to "hurry up"/ briefly check on an older swimmers maybe needed from time to time however spending prolonged time in the changing rooms with older swimmers who DO NOT need help is not recommended as this may be open to misinterpretation.

Where swimmers from the MASTERS (adults) are changing they are encouraged to use their own area wherever possible, when changing at the same time as children. Where this is not possible adults are to be reminded to change in an appropriate fashion, and to be mindful that they are changing with children.

Officials and coaches who may need to change clothing at the pool are asked to use the dry side changing areas. Where this is not possible adults are to be reminded to change in an appropriate fashion, and to be mindful that they are changing with children.

### Expectation of Behaviour in the Changing Room.

Behaviour expectations are set out in the club code of conduct and will be reviewed with swimmers at the beginning of each season. Where the code of conduct is breached the DSC Managing Challenging Behaviour and Disciplinary Policy will be referred to.

### Prevention of Incidents with Mobile Technology in Changing Rooms:

The ASA does not support the banning of phones, as children need them to keep in touch with parents, particularly in emergencies. They do however support the requirement that phones should emit a 'noticeable sound' if the camera facility is used and that if mobile phones are taken into changing rooms, the facility to take photos must not be used.

AT DSC to prevent possible incidents ALL swimmers, parents, volunteer and coaches are asked to turn off all mobile technology (phones, tablets, portable games devices) before entering the

changing areas. If a mobile is needed to make a call during a swim session or gala to request early pick up then this should be done out of the changing area. (Please see code of conduct)

Where possible DSC tries to separate the sexes of school-age children in mixed changing villages by following ASA guidelines.

ASA advice: We strongly recommend that clubs engage locally with pool providers to create simple barrier systems, or make use of natural barriers between cubicles (e.g. lockers, etc.) to enable mixed changing villages to be used as separate changing areas for either sex. This is likely to help prevent the crime of any covert use of cameras or phones, etc. by one person on another of the opposite sex.

### Complaints

If a complaint is received about an incident that has occurred in the changing room between a member of the club and any other person, the club has a duty to act upon that concern as appropriate.

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 statutory agencies need informing.

### Supervision Responsibility After a Training Session is Completed

DSC has a reasonable duty of care to their members, which extends to an awareness on the part of the club that their junior members have been collected, in so far as is possible, at the conclusion of a session, i.e. that a member is not left unsupervised if a parent is late. This has to be age appropriate, i.e. a 17-year-old is capable of getting himself or herself home, but a 12-year-old is not.

However, if a club uses changing rooms that are also accessible to non-club members for public swimming lanes, it would be extreme to expect a club to search the changing areas in case a junior club member was there.

Best practice would be for a club to make all junior members and their parents aware that if children are not collected by a parent, then they should make that known to the welfare officer or coach who will ensure that the member is supervised appropriately until a parent arrives or the parent communicates alternative arrangements.

If a parent fails to collect a child, the club should follow the procedure outlined in the **ASA Late Collection of Children Policy**. <http://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>

This policy was adopted by the DSC Committee November 2019