



stowmarketswimmingclub.co.uk

SUPERVISION OF SWIMMERS BY PARENTS, CARERS AND GUARDIANS.

This guidance applies to parents and guardians of swimmers below the age of 16. It has been written in conjunction with guidance from Swim England and their *Wavepower* safeguarding document.

The safety and welfare of your child is paramount to our club. To this end, the club asks that members and their families support us in the supervision of children when they are participating in a training session.

For children who are eight years or younger:

We have chosen to adopt the best practice model of The Chartered Institute for the Management of Sport and Physical Activity (CIMPSA) and expect that all swimmers below the age of 8 to be overseen by their parent/carer/guardian.

This does not absolve the club for its responsibility for each young person whilst engaging in a club related activity.

Parents, carers and guardians should remain either poolside or to be situated within the leisure centre (such as in the café) so that they are able to attend to their child's needs as and when appropriate. If, for example, your child needs to go the toilet during a session they will only be allowed to leave the pool if accompanied by their parent/carer/guardian.

For older children:

The club accepts that older children and young adults can be more self-reliant but parents, carers and guardians should be mindful that the children are participating in a strenuous physical sport and should at least be easily contactable during the time that the young person is involved in a training session.

Anyone leaving their children are reminded/advised of the following:

If a swimmer becomes ill during a training session, their parent/carer/guardian will be contacted the quickest means possible to the club. Club volunteers will ensure the wellbeing of the swimmer until their parent/carer/guardian is able to collect them.

If parents/guardians are not able to remain at the pool during a training session, the swimmer should be accompanied by them into the pool area before the session. After the session, a parent/guardian should be at the pool by the end of the training session and the swimmer should be collected from inside the leisure centre.

If a parent/guardian is unavoidably late collecting their child from a session, they should call the Head Coach on 07866 058067, advising of their estimated time of arrival and ask the pool staff to supervise

the child until their arrival. If the swimmer has a mobile phone, the parent should leave a message/text to make them aware of the need to stay at the pool until they are collected. The parent *must* provide clear guidance on what the organisation will be required to do, e.g. the parent must give consent if they wish for another parent to transport their child home.

Until a child is collected, to maintain the wellbeing of all concerned, two appropriate adults or parents will remain with them.

If a swimmer is being collected early from a training session, their parent/guardian/carer must inform their coach before the session and inform them also of who will be collecting them. The swimmer must wait by the pool once changed until their parent/guardian/carer collects them.

The same rules apply at galas. If a parent/carer/guardian has an unavoidable reason not to stay at the pool during a gala, another adult (e.g, parent of another swimmer) should be nominated to have responsibility in the parent's absence. The team manager should be advised in writing of the name of the nominated person in advance of the event.

If a parent fails to collect a child, the club should follow the procedure outlined in the ASA/Swim England Late Collection of Children Policy on p. 81 of the *Wavepower* document.

The safe use of changing facilities.

This guidance applies to all swimmers regardless of age.

All swimmers must use the changing rooms when getting changed before and after training.

Swimmers must not get changed poolside or behind the seating areas at the pool as this is a potential safeguarding issue, even when the pool/leisure centre is closed to the public.

Parents should be aware that the pool is often open to the public whilst the club is training and the club is not allowed to supervise the changing rooms.

Parents should not be in the changing area unless their child is 8 years or younger or has a disability which means they require help getting changed.

Please note the club's code of conduct applies as much in the changing area as it does during training and galas and any infringements will be reported to the committee.

For further information and guidance about the ASA's Changing Room policy please refer to the document *Wavepower – The ASA Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures*