



# WOLVERHAMPTON SWIMMING CLUB

Founded 1876

(Affiliated to Staffordshire ASA & Swim England West Midlands)

## Mobile Devices including Phones, Tablets and Other Image Capturing Equipment

Many Leisure Centres and Swimming Pools across the country now have policies in place which strictly prohibit the use of **mobile devices including phones, tablets and other image capturing equipment** both within the spectator areas and on poolside.

Furthermore, Staffordshire Amateur Swimming Association endorses this approach to promote safeguarding for all swimmers and requests that its member clubs are responsible for monitoring compliance.

As a club affiliated to the Staffordshire ASA, we are committed to conducting our activities within the rules and expectations of the Association.

### Club Policy

It is recognised that smartphones and tablets contain a wide variety of functionality which can be susceptible to misuse.

Misuse includes, but is not restricted to the following;

- taking of and distribution of indecent images
- exploitation
- bullying

Misuse of smartphones and tablets can cause distress to individuals, impact on self-confidence and mental well-being, as well as affecting privacy and rights to confidentiality.

Such concerns are not exclusive to children and young people.

It can be very difficult to detect when smartphones and tablets are being used, particularly in relation to some of the additional functionality.

Due to the reasons outlined above, we have decided to introduce “**mobile free areas**” within the Club environment.

We request that **NO MOBILE DEVICES** are to be used on poolside during the following times;

- at Club Training Sessions
- at Open Meets, Club Galas or Regional/National Events
- at League Events and Galas eg Staffs League, Arena League & Diddy League etc.

The Club recognises that some swimmers like the facility of their phone for warm up race music, so we would ask that alternatives are considered such as MP3 players provided that they do not contain image recording functionality.

Whilst at Club training sessions across all locations (WV Active Central, Colton Hills Community School, Smestow School and any other locations used for occasional training camps), the following areas are considered to be the most vulnerable and sensitive;

- Changing Rooms
- Toilets
- Showers
- Poolside

Therefore, and with immediate effect a **ZERO TOLERANCE** policy has been introduced with regards to use of mobile devices by any individual in these areas.

### **Inappropriate use**

Everyone should be aware that any members taking photographs or using vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile device in any of the designated mobile free areas will face disciplinary action as sanctioned by the Club, which could result in the withdrawal of their membership.

Additionally, the taking or sending photographs of objectionable images may be subject to criminal proceedings outside of the Club.