

Stourbridge Swimming Club

Code of Conduct for use of Mobile phones

V2. Updated March 2022

Stourbridge Swimming Club acknowledges that mobile phones, text messaging, email, **social media** and other forms of electronic communication are now widely used within daily life. The aim of this policy is to promote safe and appropriate practice by establishing clear guidelines for acceptable use of mobile phones and other handheld devices in accordance with Swim England guidelines. This policy applies to all members of the Club, swimmers, parents and coaches, and relates directly to the appropriate codes of conduct.

Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the athletes / coaches / volunteers to adhere to the guidelines outlined in this document. It is the parent's responsibility to allow their child to have a mobile phone and should be aware if their child takes a mobile phone to club sessions.

Policy Statement

It is recognised that smartphones contain a wide variety of functions which can be susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying. Misuse of smartphones can cause distress to individuals, impact on self-confidence and mental well-being, as well as impact on privacy and right to confidentiality.

The use of all mobile phones is therefore limited, regardless of their capabilities.

There are 'mobile phone free' areas within the Club setting. These are areas that are considered to be the most vulnerable and sensitive:

- Changing Rooms
- Toilets
- Showers
- Poolside- use is at coach's discretion.

There is a zero-tolerance policy in place with regards to use of mobile phones by any individual in these areas.

To ensure that all swimmers adhere to this policy, new procedures will be put into place at training sessions.

Before entering the training village, swimmers under 25 **MUST** either hand their phone over to their parent/responsible adult or be placed into the phone collection box. The box will be supervised until the end of the session and may be collected after exiting the changing village after proof of ownership (unlocking the phone).

Members using vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Club. Members using their mobile phone to engage in personal attacks, harass other people, post private information about others, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, **using their phone in a zero-tolerance area**, and phone calls will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Club, and may be subject to criminal proceedings.

You may at some point, come across or be made aware of, inappropriate use of mobile phones. If this is in relation to the swimming club, please inform the Club Welfare Officer (Jess Hickman or Pete Woodhams).