

# Swindon ASC

## Changing Room Policy



### **Purpose:**

To clarify how Parents/Carers and Members are to exercise their duty of care to safeguard Children and Young People in swimming pool changing rooms.

This policy is based on the ASA (SwimEngland) Changing Room Policy guidelines detailed in the Wavepower 20116-19 document.

### **Duty of Care to Swimmers in Changing Facilities:**

Under the Duty of Care to Safeguard Children, Swindon ASC has a responsibility for the well-being of children in the changing rooms of swimming facilities before, during and after training or an event or competition.

This responsibility is shared with the Parents/Carers of the Club's swimmers. In order to exercise this duty of care, Parents/Carers of children attending teaching sessions must remain within the pool complex for the duration of the swimming lesson for all children under the age of 14.

Parents/ Carers of Children and Young People over the age of 14 may leave the complex. However, Parents/ Carers must ensure that a designated adult returns to the pool complex promptly at the session finishing time to assume responsibility for the nominated Child(ren) or Young Person(s) whilst changing.

### **Responsibility during a Training Session:**

Whilst a young person is training, s/he remains under the supervision and duty of care of the swimming Coach or Teacher.

If a Swimmer goes out of the pool area, the Coach or Teacher must be made aware of this.

If the Young Person fails to return within a reasonable time or appeared upset when leaving poolside, the Coach/Teacher will request that two persons leave poolside to search for the Swimmer. These two persons could be another Coach/Teacher, Committee member, another Parent or an older Swimmer. If this cannot happen, relevant employees of the facility or venue should be called upon to assist the search.

If the Club receives a complaint about any incident that has occurred between a Swimmer and any other person, the Club will follow the Complaints Policy.

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### **Changing Facilities used by Swindon ASC:**

At most pools used by Swindon ASC, changing facilities are shared with members of the public.

Some pools are subject to their own policy which states that children over the age of 8 years must use the gender appropriate changing room.

### **Conduct of Swimmers Using Changing Facilities:**

Swindon ASC has high expectations of its Swimmers and requires them to behave in a responsible and respectful manner to all other Members and the premises.

All swimmers are reminded to abide by the Code of Conduct agreed by the Committee and published on the Swindon ASC website ([www.swindonasc.co.uk](http://www.swindonasc.co.uk)).

### **Conduct of Parents and Carers whilst Swimmers are using non-Public Changing Facilities:**

It is not the policy of Swindon ASC to encourage adults to supervise swimmers using changing facilities or to make such arrangement on behalf of the club. This is because such supervision could place them and/or the Swimmers at risk of harm or allegation.

Parents/ Carers, therefore, should not be in the changing rooms whilst swimmers are changing unless the swimmer is 8 years of age and under or requires specific additional help to change. In such circumstances, the Welfare Officer should be informed.

In circumstances where a Parent/Carer is supporting their child, the parent must be the same gender as the child, unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a mixed changing village.

The Club may place an officer or appointed poolside helper on the outside of the doors in and out of the changing rooms to allow children to call for assistance if required. This may be required to monitor incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between members in the changing rooms. Note that such instances will be dealt with in accordance with the Club's Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure and the relevant Code of Conduct.