



## **Morpeth Amateur Swimming Club**

### **Changing Room Policy**

The club has a responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms. This does not mean that parents/guardians have no responsibility, but parents/guardians are often not in the pool complex at the time when children are swimming and training to exercise their duty of care.

#### **Use of mobile phones in changing rooms**

- a reminder to all parents, guardians and members that the use of mobile phones in the changing rooms is prohibited.
- Should our club become aware or receive an allegation around possible taking or use of indecent images, then **the matter will be referred immediately to the police** followed by informing the Swim England Safeguarding team.

#### **Responsibility during club sessions**

The view of Swim England is that 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 swimmer goes out of the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. It is imperative that swimmers tell the coach if they need to leave the poolside for any reason i.e. to use the toilet. If the child fails to return within a reasonable time, or appears to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach or poolside helper should 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) but may not always be possible as the safety of swimmers in the pool is essential.

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



that concern as appropriate, following the recommended Swim England guidance. 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.

## Information for parents regarding changing facilities

The changing facilities at our different venues vary and there are occasions where club members and members of the general public can be in the changing rooms at the same time. The following policy should be observed;

- Morpeth Riverside and Ponteland Leisure Centre are mixed changing rooms
- Both pools have individual changing cubicles
- Swimmers should only change within a cubicle
- Swimmers must follow the code of conduct in the changing rooms at all times.
- Parents should not be in the changing room unless their child is aged 8 or under or requires additional specific assistance. You should make the club aware if your child falls into this category. In such circumstances the parent or carer should only be in the changing room to assist the child changing. Once the child is changed and has gone on to poolside the parent or carer should leave the changing room.
- Parents should not enter the changing rooms either before, during or after a session as other swimmers may be changing, unless exceptional circumstances as detailed above. Parents/swimmers are also reminded that taking pictures or video using cameras or any device capable of taking pictures is not allowed in the changing rooms.
- In addition, Swim England do not advise adults to supervise changing facilities as that places them and the children at risk of allegations of improper behaviour. However, if appropriate, an officer may be placed outside of the doors for the changing room to allow children to call for assistance.



[Wavepower 2020-23 | Child safeguarding for Swim England clubs](#)

Access our changing room policy, pages 80-81, and further guidance on indecent / child abuse images, pages 82-85.