



OXFORD AND WITNEY ARTISTIC SWIMMING CLUB

CHANGING ROOM POLICY

This policy is based on the Swim England Changing Room Policy guidelines detailed in the Wavepower, 2020-2023 document.

1. Purpose

1.1 To clarify how parents / carers and WDSSC members are to exercise their duty of care to safeguard children and young people in swimming pool changing rooms.

2. Duty of Care to Swimmers in Changing Facilities

2.1 Parents/carers are responsible for their children in the Changing Rooms prior to the Club training session/event taking place.

2.2 Under the Duty of Care to Safeguard Children, Oxford and Witney Artistic Swimming Club (OWASC) has a responsibility for the well-being of children in the changing rooms of swimming facilities.

2.3 This responsibility is shared with the parents / carers of the club's swimmers.

2.4 In order to exercise this duty of care, parents / carers of children attending teaching/trial sessions must remain within the pool complex for the duration of the swimming lesson.

2.5 Parents / carers of children and young people swimming in the club's squads may leave the complex as, whilst training, the child / young person is under the responsibility and duty of care of the coach. 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.

3. Responsibility during a Club Session

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

3.2 If a swimmer goes out of the pool area, the coach or teacher must be made aware of this.

3.3 If the young person fails to return within a reasonable time or appeared upset when leaving poolside, the coach will request that two persons leave poolside to search for the swimmer. These two persons could be a Swimming Club Committee member, other parents or an older swimmer.

3.4 If the club receives a complaint about any incident that has occurred between a swimmer and any other person, the club will:-

- ☐ Investigate the matter if the other person is a club member
- ☐ Inform the pool manager should the incident involve a member of the public.



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4. Changing Facilities used by Oxford & Witney Artistic Swimming Club

4.1 Changing facilities at Witney Leisure Centre contain both changing villages and gender designated areas. Changing facilities at Harcourt Hill Pool are separate for males and females.

4.2 At Witney Leisure Centre changing facilities are shared with members of the public.

4.3 On occasions when OWASC attend events involving other clubs, it will ensure that the meet information advises parents that the changing facilities used are likely to be open to members of the public at any time during the meet.

4.4 Swimmers should either place belongings in a locker or take bags close to poolside so they can be observed by those on poolside; the Club is not responsible whatsoever for belongings left in changing room.

5. Conduct of Swimmers Using Changing Facilities.

5.1 Oxford & Witney Artistic Swimming Club has high expectations of its swimmers and requires them to abide by the code of conduct agreed by the Committee and published on the OWASC website.

5.2 Photography/filming on any device in changing areas will not be permitted under any circumstances.

5.3 Parent/carers or swimmers should address any concerns in changing room behaviour to the relevant coach or the Club Child Welfare Office (see contacts on website).

6. Conduct of Parents and Carers whilst Swimmers are using Changing Facilities

6.1 It is not the policy of OWASC 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.

6.2 Parents/carers should abide by the Leisure Centre Policy on parents in changing areas, and in particular should not enter the single-sex communal changing areas unless their swimmer is very young and requires help to change or requires special assistance with changing.

6.3 Parents, therefore, should not be in the changing rooms whilst swimmers are changing unless the swimmer is younger than 8 years of age or requires specific additional help to change. Please note arrangements for a single use facility may be available on discussion with member of Committee or Coach in charge of session.



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7. Responsibility after a session is completed

1. The view of Swim England is that each affiliated club has a reasonable duty of care to their members, which extends to an awareness on the part of the club that their junior members have been collected, in so far as is possible, at the conclusion of a session, i.e. that a member is not left unsupervised if a parent is late. This has to be age appropriate, i.e. a 17-year-old is capable of getting themselves home, but a 12-year-old is not.
2. However, if a club uses changing rooms that are also accessible to non-club members for public swimming lanes, it would be extreme to expect a club to search the changing areas in case a junior club member was there. OWASC asks that all junior members and their parents are aware, that if children are not collected by a parent, then they should make that known to the welfare officer, coach or whoever the club deems to be appropriate, and for the nominated individual to ensure that the member is supervised appropriately until a parent arrives or the parent communicates alternative arrangements.
3. If a parent fails to collect a child, OWASC will follow the procedure outlined in the Swim England Late Collection of Children Policy.