



## **Hatfield Swimming Club Welfare Policies in line with Wavepower 2016-19 issued 1 April 2018. This policy supersedes any previous versions.**

### **ASA Policy on changing rooms**

Under the duty of care to safeguard children, the club has a responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms.

This does not mean that parents have no responsibility, but parents are often not in the pool complex at the time when children are swimming and training to exercise their duty of care.

### **Changing room policy**

Hatfield Swimming Club requires parents remain on the premises if they have young children who require assistance with changing- usually under the age of 8, or for those children with a disability who may require additional help that the club is unable to provide.

### **Responsibility during a club session**

The view of the ASA and Hatfield Swimming Club 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 member goes out of the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. If the child fails to return within a reasonable time, or appears to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher should request a suitable official to 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). If a complaint is received about an incident that has occurred in the changing room between a member of the club and any other person, Hatfield Swimming Club has a duty to act upon that concern as appropriate, following the guidance in Wavepower 2016-19 section 2.2 (pp. 39–50).

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.

The ASA is currently working with the CPSU, ASA Facilities Team and commercial facility providers, to try to encourage pool providers across the nation to separate the sexes of school-age children in mixed changing villages.

### **Information for parents regarding changing facilities**

Parents should be aware that changing facilities at venues may be shared by both club members and members of the general public.

Parents should be aware of the type of changing room in use, i.e. separate for male and female or mixed changing villages.

Parents should remind swimmers the behaviour of members in changing rooms is part of the member's Code of Conduct and any behaviour contracts, where appropriate.

Masters (adult) members should use their own area wherever possible, when changing at the same time as children.

Where this is not possible adults are reminded to change in an appropriate fashion, and to be mindful that they are changing with children.

Parents should not be in the changing room whilst the children are changing unless their child is of an age where help is required from parents or if the child requires additional specific assistance.

This is generally at an age that is stipulated by the pool hirer, usually seven or eight years of age. In such circumstances, the parent must be the same gender as the child, unless the facility has family changing facilities or is a mixed changing village.

At events outside of the normal training venues parents should be aware (via the event information) whether or not the facilities are likely to be open to the general public at any time during the event.

The ASA and Hatfield Swimming Club does not advise that adults supervise changing facilities as that places them and the children at risk of harm and allegation.

### **Responsibility after a session is completed**

The view of the ASA and Hatfield Swimming Club is it 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.



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The ASA and Hatfield Swimming Club feel this policy has to be age appropriate, i.e. a 17-year-old is capable of getting themselves home, but a 12-year-old is not.

However, if Hatfield Swimming 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.

If a parent is going to be late, they should text the relevant coach and advise of their time of arrival and the reason why they are late.

This should not be a regular occurrence and will be monitored by the Club.

The coach will ensure that the child is supervised appropriately until a parent arrives or the parent communicates alternative arrangements.

If a parent fails to collect a child, Hatfield Swimming Club will follow the procedure outlined in the Wavepower Late Collection of Children Policy on p. 81.