



## **Great Yarmouth Swimming Club Changing Room Policy**

Great Yarmouth Swimming Club is committed to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for all members. This includes safeguarding children under 18 in changing rooms before, during, and after training, events, or competitions. This policy aligns with Swim England's Wavepower 2024 safeguarding guidance and clarifies the responsibilities of parents, guardians, and members.

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### **Changing Room Responsibilities**

#### **Parental Responsibility**

Parents and guardians retain primary responsibility for their child's welfare, including in changing rooms. Parents should:

- Assist young children who require help with changing.
- Ensure children with disabilities receive the necessary support; a same-gender parent/guardian must accompany them unless using designated family or mixed-gender facilities.
- Avoid entering changing rooms unless necessary due to their child's age (under 7 or 8, as per facility rules) or disability.

#### **Member Responsibility During Sessions**

While training or being taught, children remain under the responsibility of the coach or teacher. Members should:

- Recognise that changing room facilities may be shared with the public and behave accordingly.
- Report any concerns related to inappropriate behaviour, bullying, or safeguarding issues to a coach, welfare officer, or responsible adult immediately.
- Return to the pool area promptly after changing if required during a session.

If any incidents involve non-club members, swimmers should report them immediately to ensure appropriate action is taken.

#### **Responsibility After Sessions**

Parents and guardians should arrive on time to collect their children. If a child is left uncollected:

- They should wait in a designated safe area and inform a club official if needed.
- If a parent is significantly delayed, Swim England's Late Collection of Children Policy may apply.

Where changing facilities are shared with the public, parents should ensure their child knows where to wait and whom to notify if left unattended.



### **Prohibition of Mobile Devices**

The use of mobile phones and digital devices in changing rooms is strictly prohibited during club sessions and Swim England-regulated activities. Any suspected breach, including photography or recording, must be reported immediately to the Club Welfare Officer and venue management.

- Any use of a mobile device in changing rooms will be reviewed to determine if it constitutes a safeguarding concern.
- If a potential crime occurs, such as voyeurism or inappropriate image capture, the police will be notified.
- Clear signage will be displayed in changing areas enforcing a zero-tolerance policy.

### **Creating a Safer Changing Environment**

To promote a safe and respectful environment, Great Yarmouth Swimming Club encourages:

- Working with pool providers to ensure clear gender segregation in mixed changing areas.
- Raising awareness among members and parents about changing room policies.
- Monitoring and addressing inappropriate behaviour in line with safeguarding procedures.

### **Reporting Concerns**

If an incident occurs in the changing room, members should:

- Report concerns to the Club Welfare Officer.
- If the issue involves a non-member, inform pool management.
- Serious concerns, including bullying, harassment, or safeguarding issues, will be referred to Swim England's Safeguarding and Welfare Team and, if necessary, statutory agencies.

All members and parents should familiarise themselves with Wavepower 2024, which outlines Swim England's safeguarding policies.

### **Events with Other Clubs or Public Access**

For galas, competitions, or events where other clubs or the public share facilities:

- Changing rooms may be accessible to the public.
- Members and parents should check facility arrangements and follow appropriate changing room protocols to prevent safeguarding concerns.

### **Commitment to Safeguarding**

Great Yarmouth Swimming Club is dedicated to providing a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment. We uphold Swim England's safeguarding standards and will take appropriate action against any breaches of this policy.

For further guidance, refer to Swim England Wavepower 2024.