



Guidelines for Attending Galas

October 2017

Swimmers at Hitchin Swimming Club are encouraged to enter galas. We encourage family and friends to support them at these galas as spectators. However, space is often restricted on poolside and welfare policies are in place at all pools. For this reason we have written a set of guidelines for supporters attending galas.

There are two types of galas that the Club attends:-

Open Meets (Including County and Regional Competitions)

- Organised by individual swimming clubs and entered and attended as a member of Hitchin Swimming Club but competing as an individual swimmer.
- Supporting staff from Hitchin Swimming Club attend to support and chaperone the children poolside, but the swimmers remain the responsibility of their parents in between sessions and transporting them to and from the event.

At these events, space poolside is usually extremely restricted and therefore only swimmers who have entered the gala will be allowed poolside during the session(s) that they have entered. During other sessions if space is restricted, they may be required to change and sit in a public area like a café or in the spectator area which may require an entrance fee being paid.

Team Events

- The Club may enter different competitions for example Peanuts League and Speedo League. A team will be selected by the Head Coach and swimmers enter as part of a team.
- Supporting staff from Hitchin Swimming Club attend to support and chaperone the children poolside. The Club may arrange transport to and from the event or parents may be asked to make arrangements to get their child there and back.

Swimmers not selected for the team may wish to attend to support their club mates at the gala. This is encouraged but it is important that they understand and agree to the following guidelines:-

- If a coach has been arranged to transport swimmers to and from the event, swimmers taking part in the event and their parents will be given priority for seats on the coach. Supporting swimmers may request a place on the coach and will be requested to pay the fee if there is one.
- Team kit must be worn poolside otherwise you will be asked to sit in the spectating area.
- Supporting swimmers could be asked to sit in the spectating area if there is a shortage of space poolside – the Coach or a member of staff from the organising club may ask them to move to that area which may require payment of an entrance fee.
- Appropriate behaviour should be adopted.
- The Coach or Poolside Chaperones requests/instructions must be complied with.
- Supporters who are not members of HSC or who are not authorised supporting staff are not allowed poolside with the HSC team during Open Meets or Team Events.