



HITCHIN SWIMMING CLUB

(Affiliated to Swim England East Region)



Code of Conduct – Social Media

HSC acknowledges the use of social networking sites for communication both by the club and individuals. While social networking provides an excellent opportunity to promote swimming and the club, it can also present a number of dangers and negative consequences if not used correctly. These include issues such as:

- cyber bullying, through posts which are upsetting to people and often inaccurate.
- causing offence to individuals, or other clubs and organisations.
- exposure to inappropriate content, or offensive comments or pictures.

It is important to note that misuse/abuse conducted on social media may result in a criminal investigation and any suspected criminal activity should be reported directly to the police. Swim England has produced detailed guidance on the use of social networking: see New edition of Wavepower, pages 22,23,24,25 & 95

<https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs>

All members of Hitchin Swimming Club agree to adhere to Wavepower when signing the club code of conduct and therefore any use of social media

should be respectful and not discriminate against any person affiliated with the club, Swim England or associated organisations.
aim to promote swimming and Hitchin Swimming Club in a positive way
must not compromise the safety or well being of any person
all photographs /images of persons must be fully clothed or captured from shoulders and above. Images must only be shared with the explicit consent of all persons represented

In accordance with the above:

1. Swim England members in a position of trust and/or responsibility should not be in direct contact with children through social networking sites.
2. Should a child in your club request to become a 'friend' on your social networking site, or request that you become a 'friend' on their own social networking site, you should decline if: a. you are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child b. you hold a position of trust and responsibility in your club c. your contact with the child is through a Swim England club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.
3. The social network site should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise Swim England members, Swim England clubs, or any member of the public

or other organisation and to do so may be in breach of Swim England Rules and Regulations.

4. The publishing of a photograph or video footage on a social networking site is governed by the same requirements as those contained in the Swim England Photography Policy. Always make sure that you take safeguarding precautions.

5. Be wary of publishing any identifying information about yourself or others, either in your profile or in your posts. Remember not to include personal details, such as phone numbers, workplaces, school names, addresses or birthdays

For further guidance see

Swim England Social Media Guide for Clubs

<https://www.swimwest.org.uk/file/social-media-guide-for-clubs-final.pdf>

NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit Online safety

<https://thecpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/online-safety/>