



Changing room policy

Incorporating Swim England's relevant policy, as set out in [Wavepower 2024](#)

Objectives

South Croydon Swimming Club (GRSC) is committed to a club environment in which all children participating in its activities have a safe and positive experience. A child is defined as someone under the age of 18.

This document is to clarify how parents/ guardians and members are to exercise a duty of care to safeguarding children and young people in swimming pool changing rooms.

Duty of Care to swimmers in changing facilities responsibility

Under the Duty of Care to Safeguard Children, SCSC has a responsibility for the well-being of children in the changing rooms of swimming facilities. This responsibility is shared with the parents/ guardians of the club's swimmers.

In order to exercise this duty of care, parents/ guardians of children attending teaching sessions (Learn to Swim) or whose children who might require assistance with changing or who might have a disability that requires additional help that the club is unable to provide, must remain within the pool complex for the duration of the swimming lesson.

Parents/ guardians of children and young people that swim in the Club's squads may be permitted to leave the complex during training sessions. During this time, the Coach will assume a duty of care and responsibility for the child until a designated adult returns to the pool complex (before the session is due to finish) to assume responsibility for their swimmer whilst they change.

Responsibility during a training session

Whilst a swimmer is training, they remain under the supervision and duty of care of the coach/ teacher. A swimmer must not leave the pool area without the knowledge and consent of their coach or teacher.

If the swimmer fails to return within a reasonable time or appeared upset when leaving the poolside, the coach/ teacher will request that two persons leave poolside to search for the swimmer. These could be another coach, committee member, parent or an older swimmer. If this is not possible, relevant employees of the facility or venue should be called upon to assist with the search.



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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; or
- Inform the pool manager should the incident involve a member of the public.

Changing facilities used by SCSC

At most pools used by SCSC, the changing facilities are shared with other club members as well as with members of the public, some of which are configured as a 'Changing Village' with cubicles, meaning they are mixed-sex changing areas. This also applies to the facilities used for other events such as galas or open meets.

Conduct of swimmers using Changing Facilities

SCSC has high expectations of its swimmers and requires them to abide by their Codes of Conduct

Conduct of Parents and Carers whilst Swimmers are using Changing Facilities

It is not the policy of SCSC 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.

As such, parents/ guardians 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. In such circumstances, the parent /guardian should be of the same gender as the child and should only be in the changing room to assist the child changing. Once the child is changed and has gone onto poolside the parent /guardian should leave the changing room.

Designated members /coaches of the organisation may walk through public areas particularly if the changing rooms are shared with members of the public in order to safeguard members. This approach will be used when children have reported incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between members in the changing rooms.

Mobile phones in changing spaces.

The changing room policy now prohibits all use of mobile phones or such devices in a changing space during a Swim England regulated activity. This includes but is not limited to:

- Taking photos or videos
- Texting
- Making phone calls



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- Browsing the internet.

Any person who enters a changing space may have their phones in their bag but **must not** have them out in any changing space at any time.

All use of mobile devices in a changing room must be reported to the Welfare Officer (welfare.scsc@outlook.com) and, if appropriate, the venue. The Welfare Officer should decide whether or not the breach of Wavepower is a safeguarding concern (such as the reported taking of images/video, or the placing of a phone over/under a changing cubicle) and if so, this must be referred to the Swim England Safeguarding and Welfare Team as soon as possible. If the breach of this policy is not deemed to be a direct safeguarding concern (such as a Member using their phone to make a phone call in a changing area) then this should be dealt with under the Club's behaviour and code of conduct process. If a potential crime has been committed, this must be reported to the Police immediately, and the venue must be informed.



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Date of revision and record of amendments:

Date of amendments	Section Heading	Page Number	Paragraph Number / Notes



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