



Thame Swimming Club's Social Media Policy

Thame Swimming Club (TSC) recognises that there is a growing awareness of the increasing communication between adults and children and their peers on social networking sites.

There are risks associated with these developments and Swim England has identified a number of issues that has led to both disciplinary and safeguarding concerns stemming from improper or inappropriate use of such sites.

Any social networking sites are information sharing facilities only and do not replace the TSC website. Our website and GoMotion is the central hub of our club information and communication strategy.

This policy will set down guidelines for acceptable use, not only for the TSC Facebook page, but all on-line social networking communications including those relating to Thame Swimming Club.

Scope of this policy

This policy is for all Thame Swimming club swimmers and their parents/carers, coaches and Committee members and may be referred to as 'members' within this policy.

This policy refers to 'social networking sites'. This term includes but is not limited to personal blogs/websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, BeReal, YouTube and TikTok. The term 'instant messaging tools' includes but is not limited to WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Messenger. New platforms and tools emerge frequently, and this list is intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive.

If any inappropriate social media emerges on any social media used by Thame Swimming Club, members are encouraged to report this immediately to their coach/ head coach and/ or Welfare Officer.

Misuse or abusive conduct on social media may result in a criminal investigation.

Members are encouraged to directly refer such activity to Thame Swimming Club

Social Media Policy

- If any member sees any inappropriate content on social media relating to Thame Swimming Club and its members, they are encouraged to report this immediately to the Head Coach, Committee Chair and/ or Welfare Officer.
- Social networking sites and instant messaging tools should never be used as a medium to abuse, threaten, humiliate, or criticise members, Thame Swim Club, any other swim club, or Swim England. To do so is in breach of Swim England's regulations. Hurtful, untrue, or upsetting comments are not to be made about Thame Swim Club and/or its members on such digital platforms.



- Members will not post content or take any action on TSC Swimming Club Facebook or Instagram pages that infringes or violates anyone else's rights or otherwise violates the law. ● Any social/digital platforms relating to Thame Swimming club will not be used to bully, intimidate, or harass any user
- No content will be posted that is hateful, incites or shows graphic violence, is pornographic, or contains nudity.
- The publishing of any photographs or videos of any members of Thame Swimming club, on any Thame Swimming club related social networking site, is governed by the same requirements as those contained in the 'Thame Swimming club photography and photographing of swimmers' policy.
- This policy advises that the coaching team should not have any contact with swimmers or their parents/carers through social networking sites or instant messaging tools.
- In accordance with our code of conduct, we do not recommend coaches have any contact with children or the swimmer's parents/carers other than face to face, via the club secretary/ Communications secretary or through Team Unify/ GoMotion.
- In the event of an emergency, e.g. immediate pool closure, coaches may use 'One Thame' WhatsApp group to share information quickly with parents.
- Thame Swim Club does not allow children's personal telephone numbers to be added to shared WhatsApp groups. For example, the 'One Thame' WhatsApp group is only for the parents/carers of club swimmers.
- Our coaches are in a position of power and trust, and as such will decline any 'friend' requests from club swimmers on all personal social networking sites.

Thame Swim Club Facebook and Instagram

- Children under the age of 13 are not permitted to join or use Thame Swim Club Facebook or Instagram pages. Parents and carers are very welcome to join and contribute to these pages. ● Members will not provide any false information to Thame Swimming Club Facebook/Instagram ● To ensure that the site is used in good spirit and to the benefit of the Club, Thame Swimming Club Facebook and Instagram pages will be managed predominantly by the Communication secretary but will be monitored by members of the committee and the Welfare Officer. ● Posting on our social networking pages any messages, comments or links that breaches the above requirements will contravene this policy. Any individual found to be in breach of this policy may face disciplinary action in accordance with TSC Code of Conducts.
- Posts and images on the Club's channels on social media are not routinely deleted as they form part of the Club's history and the images are not stored long-term elsewhere. However, specific images can be deleted on request by a featured individual or for another appropriate reason.

Guidelines for Safeguarding Children and Young People on Social Networking

- Swim England Safeguarding Guidelines (Wave power) offer comprehensive information on this subject and are available to download from: www.swimming.org



What to do if you have concerns about child safety:

- If you see any content on our social networking pages, or any others, that raises your concerns about the safeguarding of our Thame Swim Club swimmers please contact the Welfare office or Thame Swimming Club Committee Chair without hesitation.
- We would always endeavour to address these matters promptly and appropriately. However, should you wish to raise these concerns anonymously with an external body, or they are urgent, you can contact:
 - Swim England Safeguarding and Welfare 01509640700
 - www.childline.org.uk 0800 1111
 - The NSPCC helpline 0800 800 5000 or www.nspcc.org.uk for adults concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.
- Additionally, you can contact the police, if you believe an offence might have been committed.

Thame Swimming Club Social Media Policy - July 2024