

## Code of Conduct for Parents of a Swimmer Attending Open Meets and Galas – Aged 17 Years and Under

*(Not Training – see separate Code of Conduct)*

**The Code is something you should refer to in order to understand how you should behave towards others and how they should behave towards you.**

(While the term ‘coach’ is used throughout this document, it is intended to encompass teachers as well as Team Managers and Chaperones. Similarly, ‘Parent’ could refer to a Guardian or Responsible Adult.)

As a registered Swim England Member and parent of a member (under 18 years of age) at the Club, or acting in loco parentis of a swimmer, but not a registered Swim England Member yourself, you are required to agree to this Code of Conduct.

As a valued member of our swimming community, we appreciate your commitment to supporting your swimmer’s development in the sport. To ensure a positive and safe environment for all swimmers, parents and staff, we ask that you follow this Code of Conduct while attending Open Meets and Galas.

### A. General

1. Be aware of Wavepower and adhere to relevant guidance.
2. Adhere to Club policies and Codes of Conduct, and Swim England regulations, Code of Ethics and rules.

### B. Supporting a Safe and Positive Environment at Open Meets & Galas

3. **Swimmers 8 years and under** – Always hand over and pick up your swimmer directly to or from a GCSC coach, Team Manager or Chaperone whilst at Open Meets and Galas. Ensure that your swimmer, 8 years and under, knows that they must not leave poolside for any reason without talking to a Coach, Team Manager or Chaperone.
4. **Swimmers 9 years and over** – Parents must take full responsibility for their swimmer’s actions when they enter a facility while getting changed. Coaches will take responsibility for all young people when they come poolside only. Parents must take responsibility as soon as they leave poolside.
5. For all swimmers aged 16 and under, a parent must remain within the facility at all times whilst at a competition or gala.
6. **Swimmers aged 17 years** – Parents must decide whether the swimmer should drive to or remain at the pool themselves. Parents will remain responsible for the swimmer’s actions until the swimmer reaches poolside and after they leave poolside, regardless of whether they are present.
7. Parents should remain in attendance for swimmers aged 16 and under for the whole of the competition or gala.
8. **Remember that facilities may be open to the public**, and parents are responsible for their swimmer(s) whilst in the changing areas. Coaches take responsibility once swimmers are poolside.
9. Ensure a coach is present poolside before allowing a swimmer to go poolside.



10. Support my swimmer's well-being by ensuring they are not sent to competitions if unwell, and notify the coach in advance if needed.
11. Ensure my swimmer is properly equipped for competition, with all necessary attire and gear, such as hats, goggles, water and snacks.
12. Support my swimmer's nutrition needs, listening to the advice provided by the coach or nutritionist to ensure they have what they need for success.
13. Ensure your swimmer has the contact details of the parent responsible for them whilst at a competition, either in a mobile phone or waterproof container in their swimming bag.
14. Ensure your swimmer understands the Swimmer's Code of Conduct.

### C. New Procedure

15. After each OM meet session, all swimmers will be expected to leave poolside and join their parent during the break. This allows all Coaches, Team Managers and Chaperones to have a break and take refreshments as well. Swimmers 8 years and under must be handed over to and collected from a coach as set out above. Parents must ensure that their swimmer is aware of this rule.

### D. Promoting Sportsmanship and Positivity

16. Respect all rules set by Competition staff, Officials and Centre/facility staff. Support swimmers in striving to be their best at all times.
17. Respect Coaches, Team Managers and Chaperones by limiting direct contact during Open Meets and Galas unless an emergency arises.
18. Trust the expertise of the professional coaching team and support their guidance without offering conflicting instructions.
19. Not coach my swimmer from the balcony or poolside, as this can be distracting for them and others. Allow the coaches to lead without interruption.
20. Encourage my swimmer to approach every session with a positive mental and physical mindset, promoting a healthy attitude toward their sport.
21. Show appreciation and support for my swimmer and their teammates, celebrating every effort and achievement.
22. Never address another swimmer directly for a perceived wrongdoing; instead, such matters should be brought to the attention of the coach.
23. Focus on my swimmer's own development and avoid engaging in discussions about other swimmers' training or performance.
24. Help my swimmer enjoy the sport, focusing on their personal growth and celebrating their achievements, rather than comparing their performance to others.
25. Remember the value of sport is not just in wins and losses, but in the skills, lessons and friendships that come from participation.
26. Celebrate diversity and respect all club members, coaches and volunteers, regardless of gender, race, sexual orientation, faith or ability. Every individual is valued and appreciated in our community.

### E. Compliance and Accountability



27. Use appropriate language at all times and maintain a positive and encouraging tone.
28. Direct any serious concerns to the Lead Coaches and any welfare matters to the Welfare Officer (contact details available on the website).
29. Help us keep everyone safe by reporting any abuse, bullying or unacceptable behaviour to the Welfare Officer — even if you have only witnessed it.
30. Please remain off the pool deck during Open Meets and Galas unless you have been invited by a member of staff, official or volunteer.
31. Communicate with respect and courtesy, refraining from any intimidating behaviour or passive-aggressive communication toward club staff, volunteers, officials or facility staff.
32. Maintain a positive attitude as a spectator by fostering a positive atmosphere and avoiding negative discussions with other parents regarding members, the club or the coaches. Any concerns will be addressed in a constructive, professional manner.
33. Promote a positive, supportive atmosphere where inappropriate language, bullying or any hurtful behaviour is not tolerated by the club.
34. Approach any concerns with respect and always refer serious matters to the Lead Coaches, respecting the coaches' time and avoiding sending excessive emails about minor concerns.
35. Understand that maintaining respectful behaviour is essential when communicating with coaches, officials, facility staff, other parents and swimmers.
36. Above all, endeavour to be mindful of your actions, as negative behaviour can result in consequences: breaches of this Code of Conduct will result in disciplinary action against you by the Welfare Officer or Club Administrator. Any behaviour which may be a criminal offence will be reported to the police and any other relevant authority.

