

Code of Conduct for Parents of a Swimmer Aged 17 Years and Under – Covering All Training Sessions

(Not OMs/Galas – 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 'Parent' is used, it could mean Guardian or Responsible Adult. Similarly, where 'coach' is used throughout this document, it is intended to encompass teachers as well.)

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 training sessions.

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. Health, Medical & Up-to-Date Contact Details

3. Complete and return the Medical Information Form as requested by the club and provide details of any health conditions/concerns relevant to my swimmer on the consent form. I will ensure any changes in my swimmer's health are communicated to the coach before training sessions or events. I will keep the club updated with current contact details for me and any designated alternate contacts.
4. Support my swimmer's well-being by ensuring they are not sent to training if unwell, and I will notify the coach in advance if needed.
5. Ensure my swimmer is properly equipped for training and events, with all necessary attire and gear, such as hats, goggles, water and snacks.
6. 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.
7. **Swimmers 8 years and under** – Always hand over and pick up your swimmer directly to or from a GCSC coach, Team Manager or Chaperone. 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.
8. **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 the swimmer leaves poolside.
9. For all swimmers aged 16 and under, a parent must remain within the facility at all times.



10. **Swimmers aged 17 years** – Parents must decide whether the swimmer should drive to and/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.
11. **Spectrum Leisure Centre and Surrey Sports Park** – Parents should remain in attendance within these facilities, and they are responsible for their swimmer(s) while in the changing areas. Coaches take responsibility once swimmers are poolside.
12. **At Charterhouse School Pool** – accompany your swimmer(s) into the centre. Parents remain responsible for swimmer(s) whilst they are in the centre and changing areas. Coaches take responsibility once the swimmers are poolside.
13. **At Guildford High School Pool & Notre Dame School Pool** – ensure swimmers are handed over to the coaches at the start of training and collected from the coach at the end.
14. **At Garrison Military Pool** – Parents remain responsible for swimmer(s) whilst they are in the centre and changing areas. Coaches take responsibility once the swimmers are poolside.
15. Ensure timely delivery and collection of your swimmer to and from training sessions and events.
16. Ensure a coach is present before your swimmer goes poolside.
17. If delayed, or there is an unavoidable issue, inform a coach as soon as possible, or contact another responsible adult to pass on the message for you.
18. Notify the coach in advance by email, WhatsApp or text (at least 48 hours in advance if possible) if my swimmer needs to leave early from a session or event, including who will be collecting them.
19. Ensure your swimmer has contact details for the parent (or other responsible adult) looking after them whilst at training, either on their mobile phone or in a waterproof container in their swimming bag.
20. Ensure your swimmer understands the Swimmer's Code of Conduct.

C. During Training

21. Respect all rules set by club staff and Centre/facility/pool staff. Support them, and encourage swimmers to strive to be their best at all times.
22. Always support changes in your swimmer's squad, lane or training times, recognising that such adjustments are made to support their growth and progression.
23. Refrain from interrupting training unless there is an emergency, maintaining a supportive environment.
24. Respect the expertise of the professional coaches by refraining from questioning their stroke techniques, drills or training programmes. Support the coaches and training programme, respecting the approach they take to ensure every swimmer's development.
25. 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.
26. Understand that parents must not go poolside for any reason, unless invited to do so by a coach or facility staff member.

D. Promoting Sportsmanship and Positivity



27. Encourage your swimmer to approach every session with a positive mental and physical mindset, promoting a healthy attitude toward their sport.
28. Show appreciation and support for your swimmer and their teammates, celebrating every effort and achievement.
29. Never address another swimmer directly for a perceived wrongdoing; instead, such matters should be brought to the attention of the coach.
30. Focus on your swimmer's own development and avoid engaging in discussions about other swimmers' training or performance.
31. Help your swimmer enjoy the sport, focusing on their personal growth and celebrating their achievements, rather than comparing their performance to others.
32. Remember the value of sport is not just in wins and losses, but in the skills, lessons and friendships that come from participation.
33. 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. Communication and Meetings

34. Support the coach and Management Team, and raise any concerns in a constructive and respectful way, fostering strong relationships.
35. 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.
36. Arrange meetings with the coach by appointment and agree an agenda via email. Avoid approaching coaches for discussions before, during or after training.
37. Communicate with respect and courtesy, refraining from any intimidating behaviour or passive-aggressive communication toward club staff, volunteers, officials or facility staff.
38. Maintain a positive attitude as a spectator by fostering a supportive atmosphere and avoiding negative discussions with other parents regarding members, the club or the coaches. Any concerns should be addressed in a constructive, professional manner.
39. Strive to promote a welcoming environment. Inappropriate language, bullying or any hurtful behaviour is not tolerated by the club.
40. Help us keep everyone safe by reporting any abuse, bullying or unacceptable behaviour to the Welfare Officer — even if you have only witnessed it.

F. Compliance and Accountability

41. Understand that maintaining respectful behaviour is essential when communicating with coaches, officials, facility staff, other parents and swimmers.
42. 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.
43. Continued breaches of this Code of Conduct, even if the parent is not a member of the Club, may result in the swimmer being suspended.

G. Squad Moves

Our coaches are always looking at how each swimmer is developing — their progress in training, their attendance, and their attitude to learning and improving. Squad moves are made against a clear set of criteria, and always with each swimmer's long-term development at heart.

We'll usually share squad moves in May, ready for swimmers to start in their new squad at the beginning of the following season.

Decisions on squad moves sit with the coaching team, and we'd warmly ask you to trust their judgement rather than expecting or requesting a move. The coaches' decision is final.

If you'd like to understand more, you're very welcome to arrange a chat with your swimmer's squad coach, who will be happy to talk you through the criteria and how your swimmer is getting on.

