No Phones in Changing Rooms Policy

Guildford City Swimming Club, in association with Swim England's Wavepower
Updated November 2026: smart glasses and wearable recording devices

Guildford City Swimming Club (GCSC) is committed to protecting the privacy, dignity and safety of every member while they are changing. This policy sets out a clear, zero-exception rule on mobile phones and recording devices in changing areas, and the consequences of breaching it. It should be read alongside GCSC's Photography and Social Media Policy and Welfare and Safeguarding policy.

This version has been updated in line with Swim England's latest Wavepower guidance, which prohibits Meta smart glasses and any other wearable device capable of recording audio, taking photographs or capturing video from being worn or used in changing rooms.

The policy

- Mobile phones, smartwatches, smart glasses (including Meta smart glasses), tablets, cameras and any other device capable of taking a photograph, video or audio recording must not be taken into, worn or used in changing rooms, toilets or other private changing areas at any GCSC training session, competition or Club event.
- This applies at all times, without exception, to everyone: swimmers, parents/carers, coaches, teachers, volunteers, officials and visitors.
- Devices should be left with a parent/carer, in a locker, or stored securely outside the changing area (for example, in a bag left with kit at poolside) before entering.
- **Smart glasses and wearables:** anyone who wears smart glasses with a built-in camera, including prescription smart glasses, must remove them and change to ordinary glasses before entering a changing area. On poolside, smart glasses are subject to the same restrictions as mobile phones and cameras, may only be used with prior authorisation from the Club and the venue, and must never be used to photograph, film or record anyone without permission.
- Where a member has a genuine medical reason to carry a device (for example, for a health monitoring app), this should be agreed in advance with the Club Welfare Officer, and the device used only for that purpose.

Responsibilities

- Parents/carers should remind their child of this rule before each session, and should not themselves use a phone or wear smart glasses in a changing area at any time, including when assisting a young child to change.
- Coaches, teachers, officials and volunteers should reinforce this rule, challenge any breach they see, and must never use a device in a changing area themselves.
- Anyone who sees a phone, smart glasses or other recording device being used in a changing area should report it immediately to a coach, official, or the Club Welfare Officer. It should not be ignored, however minor it may seem.

Administrative Office: 70 Connaught Road, Aldershot, Hampshire, GU12 4RR
Registered in England Office: 48 Rothchilds Drive, Sarisbury Green, Southampton, SO31 7NS
Guildford City Swimming Club: Registered Charity No: 1148907. Company Limited by Guarantee: Company No: 07667762.

Breach of this policy

Any breach of this policy will be treated seriously and dealt with under GCSC's Disciplinary Policy and Codes of Conduct. Depending on the circumstances, this may include:

1. A verbal warning and immediate requirement to put the device away
2. A written warning recorded on file, and a meeting with the individual (and their parent/carer, if under 18)
3. Temporary suspension from training sessions, competitions or Club events
4. Removal of membership or role within the Club in serious or repeated cases
5. Referral to the police, where a criminal offence is suspected

Any sanction will be proportionate to the circumstances, and applied with regard to the age and understanding of those involved.

If an indecent or inappropriate image is suspected

Taking, making, sharing, uploading or possessing an indecent image of a child is a criminal offence. This includes images taken with smart glasses or any other wearable device.

If you suspect a device has been used to take an inappropriate image in a changing area, report it immediately to the Club Welfare Officer and the Police. Do not view, forward, or attempt to investigate the image yourself.

Related policies

- GCSC Photography and Social Media Policy
- GCSC Welfare and Safeguarding
- Codes of Conduct: Swimmers, Parents, Coaches and Officials
- Swim England Wavepower

Contact

- GCSC Welfare Officer: welfare.officer@gcsc.co.uk

This policy should be read alongside Swim England's Wavepower policy and GCSC's wider Welfare and Safeguarding procedures. It will be reviewed annually, or sooner if Wavepower guidance changes.

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