

**Consett Amateur Swimming Club**

**Changing Rooms and Use of Mobile Phones**

**Parents and swimmer should be aware that at no time does Consett ASC have sole use of the changing facilities at the Leisure Centre, as it is open to the full centre for customer use**. This Policy is set out to embed safe practices and adhere, as closely as possible, to Swim England’s changing facility guidance. Durham County Council has been consulted and is fully aware of the below.

We are aware that some swimmers do need support, at various age ranges, to get changed and this Policy is in no way removing the support you need to give your child attending the Club. This is general guidance intended to support a safe changing facility environment.

When there are other lessons in progress within the Centre feel free to attend the changing rooms with your child as you see necessary.

When there are no other swimming lessons in progress, parents should be aware that the changing area is still open to the public but we would advise the following guidance:

1) All swimming changing areas at Consett Leisure Centre are shared use and have a mixed changing village setup and no times have exclusive use by Consett ASC.

2) Cubicles should be used by one person at a time and not shared under any circumstances.

3) All swimmers should be aware of the age range of our members. Please remember this and ensure you change and dress appropriately for this.

4) Changing arrangements:

**Development Groups**A) Adults/parents/guardians please only enter the changing area to deliver or collect your child from their session. This should be done in the shower area where your coach will collect or hand back to you.

**Squads**B) Your children, in general, are of an age to change themselves. We would like to encourage you not to enter the changing area unless necessary to support your child. This would mean you would collect your child from the changing room door where a Club staff member will ensure safe collection.

**Events**C) I f an event is to be organised then separate arrangements will be made, and these will be rolled out prior to commencement of the event.

5) If you wish for your child to leave the Centre without an adult being present, then again you must complete the authorisation form for this.

6) Club staff will complete random walk-throughs of the changing village to ensure suitable levels of safety and behaviour are encouraged. Please refer to the Codes of Conduct available in the Wave Power Safeguarding Policy.

7) No parents will enter pool at any time. This area is solely for coaches and support staff.

8) No mobile phones are to be used anywhere within the changing village. All mobiles should be left in bags, in lockers, or not brought to the Centre. This is for ALL people entering the changing area. Where a mobile phone is required for medical reasons (e.g. diabetes tracker) please confine use, wherever possible, to within a cubicle to avoid any challenge by members of the Club or the public. (Further detail on the use of mobile phones can be found below).

Responsibility

Under the duty of care to safeguard children, the Organisation has a responsibility for the wellbeing of children in the changing rooms. This does not mean that parents/guardians have no responsibility, but parents/guardians are often not in the pool complex at the time when children are swimming and training to exercise their duty of care. For this reason, Organisations must be clear to parents/guardians under what circumstances they require parents/guardians to remain at the pool throughout a session.

While a child is training or being taught, they remain under the responsibility and duty of care of the person who is teaching or coaching them at that time. If a member leaves the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. If they fail to return within a reasonable time, or appear to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher must request that a suitable person checks on them. It is best practice for two persons to look for the Member (the second person could be a senior Member or a parent/guardian). See “Missing children” Section within Swim England Wave Power for further detail.

If a complaint is received about an incident that has occurred in the changing room between a Member of the Organisation and any other person, the Organisation has a duty to act upon that concern as appropriate, If the incident involved possible risk to children or adults at risk, you must also to make pool management aware.

If the incident involves a person not associated with the Organisation, the pool manager must be made aware, and consideration given as to whether the statutory agencies need informing.

If you feel your child/swimmer requires a different level of support to that detailed within this policy, then please speak to your coach or the Club Welfare Officer.

Use of Mobile Phones

**Consett ASC fully adheres to the Swim England Policy on the use of mobile phones within changing areas. This is set out below:**

Swim England’s position now is that all use of a mobile phone or device in a changing area is prohibited during Swim England regulated activity.

Our experience shows that incidents of sexual assault and the taking of indecent images still occurs in changing rooms. It is imperative all Members of the Organisation, including employees and volunteers, understand the individually harmful and legal consequences of a person being sexually assaulted, or having indecent images of them taken. Such behaviour is illegal and will not be tolerated in any form.



All use of mobile devices in a changing room must be reported to the Organisation Welfare Officer and venue.

The Welfare Officer should decide whether 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 Organisation’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.

N.B. Use of mobiles phones for medical reasons should be confined to within a cubicle to avoid any challenge by the Club or members of the public.