

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Brackley Swimming Club acknowledges that mobile phones, messaging and other forms of electronic communication are now widely used every day. This policy aims to promote appropriate practices by establishing clear and safe guidelines for acceptable use of mobile phones and other handheld devices in accordance with Swim England guidelines.

Guidance for Swimmers and Parents

It is recognised that smart phones, tablets and other handheld devices contain a variety of functions that can be prone to misuse. Misuse may include taking and distributing images, exploitation, bullying and abuse via inappropriate use of social media including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and other social media platforms. Guidelines are given in the Club's Social Networking Policy which can be found on the Club's website.

Misuse of these devices can cause enormous distress and upset to individuals which may impact on their health, self-confidence and general well-being.

Inappropriate use of mobile phones might include:

Using derogatory or obscene language.

Personal attacks, bullying, or harassment of an individual.

Texting or posting private information or images of an individual.

Any photos taken on mobile phones should fall within the guidelines contained in the Club's Photography Policy, which can also be found on the Club website. The camera facility on mobile phones must not be used at any time in the changing rooms.

You may at some point become aware of the inappropriate use of a mobile phone(s). If this is in relation to Brackley Swimming Club, please inform the Club Welfare Officer at welfare@brackleyswimmingclub.org

Guidance for Coaches and Teachers over 21

Coaches and teachers should not personally hold the mobile phone numbers or email addresses belonging to young members of the Club. Coaches can hold phone numbers and email addresses of members' parents with their consent, in order to get messages to swimmers. It is then the responsibility of the parent to inform the swimmer of any message.

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for coaches, team managers or chaperones to have mobile phone contact details of the swimmers for safeguarding reasons, for example if they are away at camp. In such circumstances, the individual should be appropriately DBS checked, have undertaken the appropriate safeguarding training and have the consent of each swimmer's parent or guardian to hold that information. The member's phone number should be deleted once the relevant event has taken place.

Coaches of swimmers over 16 but under 18, with the consent of the parent, may use text messaging or email to communicate with that swimmer for training and competition purposes. It is recommended that such communications are also copied to the parent or guardian to safeguard the member and the coach.

Coaches should not take or make calls whilst supervising young members in a teaching or training session. It is permissible for a coach to make or take a call during an event provided they are not the sole supervisor of the swimmers.

Guidance for Coaches and Teachers aged 18 to 21

Swim England recognises that many young coaches aged 18 to 21 will have been members of the Club themselves before becoming a coach/teacher and will still be friends with younger members of the Club. It is therefore likely that they will have the personal contact details for these members. Swim England accepts it would be inappropriate to require young coaches to remove the details of those members from their contact lists. Therefore, in such cases:

If a coach or teacher aged 18 to 21 has phone or email details of swimmers aged between 16 and 17 prior to undertaking their teaching role, Swim England does not expect them to remove those members from their contact list. However, it is recommended that the Welfare Officer and Head Coach are informed.