

SOCIAL NETWORKING POLICY

Brackley Swimming Club is committed to a club environment in which all swimmers have a safe and positive experience. With the ever-increasing use of Social Networking, this policy offers guidance on what is acceptable and what to do if you have any concerns.

Guidance for Coaches and Volunteers:

1. As a coach, teacher, other employee or volunteer of the Club, you should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites (other than official channels) if they are a member of the Club.
2. Should a young person in your organisation request to become 'friends' via your personal social networking site, you should decline if:
 - a) You are in a position of responsibility in respect of that child.
 - b) You hold a position of trust and/or responsibility at the club.
 - c) Your contact with the child is through a Swim England club and the parent/guardian of the child does not give their consent to such contact.
3. Social networks should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise members or Swim England organisations and to do so may be in breach of the Swim England Rules and Regulations.
4. The publishing of a photograph or video footage on any social networking site is governed by the same requirements as those contained in the Photography Guidance of Wavepower.

Guidance to Swimmers Under 18:

1. Do not ask your coach or teacher to be your friend on any social networking site – they will refuse as that would breach good practice.
2. Use the internet positively and do not place yourself at risk. Have a look at www.thinkuknow.co.uk for some useful tips.
3. Consider who you are inviting to be your friend and follow the good advice of the social networking sites to ensure make sure you are talking to the person you believe you are talking to.
4. Always remember that any communication, comments, photos and video clips posted on a social networking site may be shared with more people than you originally intended.
5. Never share pictures of yourself or your friends that you wouldn't be happy for your family to see. Also never post or send any photographs, videos or make comments that:
 - a) May be hurtful, untrue or upsetting or that you may regret sharing later on.
 - b) May be used by other people in a way you did not intend or want.
 - c) Other people may find inappropriate.
6. Do not upload images of other members taking part in your organisation's training, activities or events as you may breach the Swim England Photography Guidance. If you do wish to upload such content, you must first seek the advice and consent of your parents, the consent of the other young person(s) and their parents, and an officer of the organisation before taking any action. This will not prevent you having images of your friends from the organisation on your personal social networking site, as long as they were taken outside of the sporting arena. Even so, it is still a good idea to check that any person in the image, and their parents, are happy for you to upload the image.

7. Always be aware that social networking sites are a method of communication like letter writing and the spoken word. They are bound by the same laws and rules. The delivery of social networking content is instantaneous and this can sometimes result in users reacting in the 'heat of the moment', and your content/ comments may spread far from that of your own social network of friends. This is a major difference between the present and the past in which you would have written a letter which would have taken time and allowed for you to think again before sending. So never place a comment on the internet that you would not put in writing or say out loud to someone. To do so may breach Swim England Policy and also the law.

Guidance to Parents:

1. Parents are expected to behave responsibly as a spectator at all training sessions, events and activities, and treat members, coaches, committee members and parents of other members of any aquatic organisation, be that your child's organisation or not, with due respect in order to meet Swim England's commitment to equality and diversity.
2. Parents should be aware that posting any content on a social networking site that breaches the above requirements may breach the Parent's Code of Conduct.
3. If you have any concerns about content that you see on a social networking site, then notify the Club Welfare Officer at welfare@brackleyswimmingclub.org, or use one of the channels listed in the What to do if you Have Concerns section below.

What to do if you Have Concerns:

Swim England have drawn up a list of agencies that you can contact (see Wavepower 2020-23, Pg. 95) where you can raise concerns, anonymously if you wish.

Swimline the Swim England/NSPCC
Child Protection Helpline
0808 100 4001

Signposting Help Desk
signposting@swimming.org

Thinkuknow
thinkuknow.co.uk

Internet matters
internetmatters.org

Childline
0800 1111
childline.org.uk

NSPCC Helpline
0808 800 5000
nspcc.org.uk

Child Exploitation and Online Protection
Command
ceop.police.uk/safety-centre

HM Government advice on keeping children
safe online
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/
child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-
carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-
carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers/child-safety-online-a-practical-guide-for-parents-and-carers-whose-children-are-using-social-media)

O2 and NSPCC Online Safety website
o2.co.uk/help/nspcc

NSPCC Share Aware Resources
[nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/
online-safety](http://nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety)

NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit
0116 366 5580
[the cpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/
online-safety](http://the cpsu.org.uk/help-advice/topics/online-safety)

Our Safety Centre
oursafetycentre.co.uk
Childnet International
childnet.com