



Colchester Swimming Club

President: Mr Ian Johnson

Colchester SC

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY AND PROTOCOL

Social Media is a growing online resource that helps to communicate the Club's swimming achievements on local, regional and national platforms. However, conversely, social networking sites can be misused and give rise to cyberbullying, harassment and offensive posts. Thus, in order to negate any safeguarding concerns, drawing on the ASA Wavepower Child safeguarding policy and procedures for clubs, the following Social Media protocol has been devised. The ultimate aim is to drive home the organisation's commitment to establish a safe, non-threatening and thriving aquatics environment.

Policy guidelines

1. The use of mobile phones and tablets are prohibited in changing rooms and poolside, with the exception of the Head Coach or Team Manager in case of notification of meet-withdrawals or emergencies.
2. This Social Media protocol applies to all parents/ guardians/ members affiliated with the organisation.
3. We encourage positive comments on Colchester Swimming Club Facebook page, personal page and/or other social networking sites. Comments that are considered negative will be deleted from the page.
4. Under **NO** circumstances are swimmers and waterpolo players allowed to post any negative comments about other swimmers or training issues on their personal social media and networking sites. This will be in breach of the Club's Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying policies found on the website too.
5. Cyberbullying, offensive and upsetting posts will not be condoned and treated seriously; it will suitably be dealt with by the Head Coach, Club Welfare Officer or Chair Person.
6. Any form of derogatory speech from individual swimmers, parents, or fellow participating audiences will not be tolerated and will be dealt with accordingly. Such post will be removed and individuals will be dealt with in line with the either the Club's Safeguarding Policy or Behavioural Conduct Policies. Please familiarise yourselves with the expected standards of respect and behavioural conduct encouraged in the organisation.
7. We will speak well of each other and be complimentary of all swimmers' achievements, whether Personal Best times have been achieved or not. The same principle of respect applies in the case of water polo players.

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Chair:

Email: chairman@colchesterswimming.com

8. Causing offence to individuals or other clubs and organisations are not encouraged. At all times, please be respectful. It has been known that regrettably there have reported occasions within the swimming environment, that parents of swimmers have used social networking sites to criticise or verbally abuse an organisation, its officers, officials, coaches, teachers, and/or members in an inappropriate and unacceptable manner. This has, in some cases, led to the person who is the subject of the abuse to take action through statutory agencies or statutory legislation to address the comments made.
9. 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 aquatics organisation, be that your child's organisation or not, with due respect; in order to meet the ASA's commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion.
10. This principle extends to the use of social media networking sites too. Parents/Members should be aware that posting messages, comments or any other media on a social networking site that breaches the above requirements in an ASA club may also breach the ASA Parents Code of Conduct.

Dated: 02/02/2018

Club Welfare Officer

Affiliated to E.A.S.A. & R.L.S.

Chair:

Email: chairman@colchesterswimming.com