

## **Welfare Update 13.01.17**

This note covers....

- **Wavepower**
- **Guidance on child abuse images/indecent images of children.**
- **Guidance on the use of electronic communication.**
- **Guidance on the use of social networking.**
- **Changing rooms policy.**
- **ASA Photography guidance.**

As Welfare Officer for Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club I recently gave a talk to club members about the ASA Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures Document , known as "Wavepower" and some recent updates of it.

The following is an edited version of this talk to help those members who were unable to attend.

The responsibility to safeguard children does not belong to any one person, but instead belongs to everyone who plays a part in our club.

Wavepower is available as folder via myself as Welfare Officer and it can also be found online at -

[www.swimming.org/asa/clubs-and-members/safeguarding-children](http://www.swimming.org/asa/clubs-and-members/safeguarding-children)

Following the update of Wavepower, it now includes a particular emphasis on the impact of new technology and the increasing use of social media, for swimmers and all club members.

The update has provided guidance for clubs specifically:

1. on indecent images of children/child abuse images.
2. on the use of electronic communication.
3. use of social networking.
4. ASA Photography Guidance.

### **Guidance on child abuse images/indecent images of children.**

The ASA advise that some young members have been found to have been trying to take, and succeeding in taking, images (video and still photographs) of children (under 18) in the process of changing, perhaps in changing villages and under/over changing cubicles.

BASC has had no issues in this area. But it has the potential to create a major incident for those concerned and the club.

Several criminal offences can be committed by taking, distributing/sending, uploading and or possessing any indecent image of a child (including those taken/possessed by other under 18 year olds). Or indeed requesting a child do the same.

There are several ways that the club can work to reduce the risk of an incident occurring. By educating members of the consequences of taking, sharing or using indecent images, this will not be tolerated in any form. Extreme caution should be taken if it is necessary to take a mobile phone or similar into a changing room.

BASC wishes to make all its members aware that in conjunction with the ASA, if there is a strong suspicion that a particular device contains an indecent image of an under 18 year old, the police will be contacted immediately and also the ASA Child Safeguarding Team.

### **Guidance on the use of electronic communication.**

The purpose of this guidance is to provide a recommendation of best practice to aquatics teachers, coaches and those in a position of trust regarding using mobile phones, text messaging, e-mail and other forms of electronic communication which are a regular feature of our everyday lives.

Coaches will be aware of the risks of making direct contact with young members having completed Child Protection / Safeguarding Training via the ASA.

Coaches and teachers should not personally hold the mobile phone numbers or e-mail addresses of young members of the club.

Coaches can hold the phone numbers and e-mail addresses of members' parents with their consent, in order to get messages to members. It is then the responsibility of the parent to inform the child of the message.

At a meet/gala for safeguarding reasons it may be necessary for coaches, team managers or chaperones to have mobile phone contact details of the members. These should be held securely, consent should have been provided and they should be deleted after the event.

### **Guidance on the use of social networking.**

The ASA recognises that the use of social networking sites e.g. Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and instant messaging tools such as Whatsapp and Snapchat etc. continue to grow rapidly and are increasingly being used as the communication tools of choice by young people.

The ASA has identified a number of issues that have led to both disciplinary and safeguarding concerns stemming from the improper or inappropriate use of social networking sites by its members.

Social networks should never be used as a medium by which to abuse or criticise members or ASA organisations and to do so may be in breach of the ASA Rules and Regulations.

The publishing of a photograph or video footage on any social networking site is governed by the same requirements as those contained in the ASA Photography guidance.

There have been occasions where parents of members 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.

The ASA has produced a parent's Code of Conduct which can be found in Wavepower Section 2 Sub section 2.3 pg 53.

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.

As a coach, teacher or other employee or volunteer of the organisation, you should not be in contact with young people through social networking sites if they are a member of the organisation you work for.

Should a young person in your organisation request to become 'friends' via your personal social networking site, you should decline if you are in a position of responsibility or trust at the club.

### **Changing rooms policy.**

Parents should not be in the changing room whilst children are changing, unless their child is of an age (under 8) where help is required from parents or if the child requires additional specific assistance.

The ASA does not advise that adults supervise changing facilities as that places them and the children at risk of harm and allegation.

Clubs may however place an officer or appointed poolside helper on the outside of the doors in and out of the changing rooms to allow children to call for assistance if required.

The view of the ASA is that 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 goes out of the pool area, the coach or teacher should be aware of this. If the child fails to return within a reasonable time, or appears to be upset upon leaving the poolside, the coach/teacher should request a suitable official to check on them.

The behaviour of members in changing rooms is part of the member's Code of Conduct and any behaviour contracts, where appropriate.

### **ASA Photography guidance.**

This guidance applies to all images and videos taken on any type of camera or recording device (including mobile phones). It applies to all training sessions, activities and events run by an ASA affiliated organisation.

At a Gala or Event any member wishing to take photographs/video must complete their details in the Photography Logbook/Register.

Some venues will operate a strict no photography or video policy. This may be for Child Safeguarding and Protection reasons. Members should comply fully with this.

It should be acknowledged that although the majority of images taken are appropriate and in good faith, images can be misused and children can be put at risk if common sense procedures are not observed.

The ASA Photography Guidance aims to help organisations avoid three potential sources of child abuse:

The use, adaptation, sharing or copying of images for child abuse purposes, either electronically or in print.

The possible identification of a child when an image is accompanied by significant personal information, which can lead to the child being 'groomed'.

The identification and locating of children where there are safeguarding concerns e.g. children with restrictions on their contact with one parent following a parental separation etc.

The publishing of a photograph of a member under 18, either on a notice board or in a published article or video recording (including video streaming) of a competition ('Publication') should only be done with parental consent and in line with ASA guidelines.

Published photographs may identify the individual by name and organisation but should not state the member's place of residence or school attended. The ASA does not wish to stop parents photographing their child if they wish, but all organisations must ensure they do all they can to safeguard each child's wellbeing.

I hope this information is helpful for you, should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Club Committee.

Chris Thomas

Welfare Officer

Biddulph Amateur Swimming Club

welfareofficer@biddulphasc.co.uk

Mobile 07810373196