



## **CSC GUIDANCE ON LANE SHARING BETWEEN ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

CSC and Swim England recognise that children and adults may train together if they are of a **like standard**, but additional consideration to child safeguarding will be undertaken by the Club. When lane sharing is unavoidable, CSC and the Coaches must conduct a thorough **risk assessment** to the mix of swimmers in each lane and the following factors will also be taken into consideration:

- Suitability of lane supervision at Club sessions involving under 18's
- The ages and sexes of the swimmers
- The relative sizes and abilities of swimmers
- The individual swimmers' lane discipline and precision of strokes
- Any lane etiquette guides, e.g. overtaking
- The presence of lifeguards
- The width of each training lane
- The number of swimmers in each lane
- Whether the session is open to spectators
- Whether the club has identified and publicised a process by which concerns can be raised with an identified child welfare officer.
- Lane sharing between adults and children

### **SE Guidance on Lane sharing between adults and children**

Swimming is a physical sport and like many physical activities there are inherent risks in taking part. We are committed to ensuring that any risks to all Members are kept to an absolute minimum.

SE recognise that children and adults may train together if they are of a similar standard. However, it is necessary to consider the implications of children and adults sharing lanes in order to safeguard children in our sports.

Unfortunately, whilst incidents within training sessions are rare, Swim England has identified some problems arising from training activities and warm ups where adults and children swim in the same lane. This includes allegations of sexual and physical assault, both intentional and accidental. Such situations have caused considerable concern and distress for the children and sometimes also for the adults involved.

**Swim England has a duty of care to all Members alongside a duty to safeguard Members under the age of 18.**

Organisations may arrange to have adults training separately to children. However, in some situations, it is neither appropriate nor possible for swimmers of different ages to train separately. This could include the development need of older children to train alongside adults, where training together can greatly enhance the experience for both parties, or at times where lane availability is limited.

Safeguarding can even be made more effective by allowing an appropriate mix of adult swimmers and older children, which can actively prevent bullying and sexual advances between older children themselves. Co-training can also aid the vital transition between juniors and adult swimming. In such situations, Organisation officers and coaches must consider the risk involved and put procedures in place to ensure training activities are organised and concluded in as safe an environment as possible, minimising both the health and safety risks and any child welfare risks that these situations may pose.

**When lane sharing between children and adults is unavoidable, Organisations must conduct a thorough risk assessment.**

Particular attention should be given to the mix of swimmers in each lane and the following factors must be taken into consideration:

- Suitability of lane supervision at Organisation sessions involving under 18s.
- The ages and sex of the swimmers.
- The relative sizes and abilities of the swimmers.
- The swimmers' lane discipline and precision of strokes.
- Any lane etiquette guides e.g. overtaking.
- The presence of lifeguards.
- The width of each training lane.
- The number of swimmers in each lane.
- Whether the session is open to spectators.

For clarity, adults who are training with younger swimmers do not require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, unless they are also taking part in an eligible role (see "The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)" on page 69 of Wavepower).

When using changing facilities together please refer to "Safeguarding in changing rooms" on page 82 of Wavepower.

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