

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians have the primary responsibility for the care and welfare of their children.

They should encourage their children to participate in sport for fun and enjoyment and should ensure that their child's experience of sport is a positive one. Parents should always remember that children play sport for their own enjoyment not that of the parents/guardians. Parents/guardians and leaders will ideally work in partnership with their club to support the promotion of good practice and measures in place to safeguard children against poor practice and all forms of abuse.

Parents/guardians should ensure that the club treats their children with fairness, respect and understanding, and that it is fulfilling its responsibility to safeguard children by ensuring the Swim Ireland Guidelines for Safeguarding Children 2008 and the Code of Ethics and good practice for children's sport (Irish Sports Council) are being implemented in the club. They should encourage an open approach to discussing safeguarding issues and for their children to tell them about anyone causing them harm or to feel upset.

Parents/guardians should be aware of Club procedures and policies in particular where changes are made that affect them or their children and be informed of all matters relating to ethics and good practice.

Parents/guardians should remember that children learn best by example.

Code of Conduct for Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians should assist in the implementation of best practice by:

- Becoming members of the club and to contribute their time and effort in the daily running of the club. No club can operate successfully without the help of volunteers
- Being available for poolside duty and/or other specified duties if and when required, these requirements and duties should be set out under your club rules
- An awareness of and respect for the relevant Leaders and their roles within the club
- Respecting the decisions made by the Committee and other Leaders and following the proper procedure if felt unjustly treated, with the knowledge that any complaint will be dealt with effectively and confidentially.
- Ensuring knowledge of the training and/or competitive programmes, and accepting the responsibility for delivering and collecting their child/children. Parents should ensure they do not leave their child/children waiting unsupervised at any time
- Ensuring the environment is safe and enjoyable for your child/children
- Being a role model for your children and other young people by encouraging fair play, behaving responsibly whilst involved in any activity related to the Club or Swim Ireland
- Ensuring the focus for your children's sport is on their efforts and success in terms of their goals rather than winning
- Encouraging participation that is fun, safe and in the spirit of fair play
- Ensuring appropriate leaders are informed regarding any absenteeism, medical conditions or other relevant matters concerning your child
- Ensuring an appropriate time and place for communicating with leaders and coaches is arranged; communication should not take place whilst leaders and coaches are in a position of supervision or responsible for other young people
- Being given the opportunity to put forward suggestions and comments, including acknowledgement of complaints
- Ensuring their child/children has/have knowledge of direct contact information in cases of emergency. This information should always be given to the club
- Ensuring the Guidelines covering the use of mobile phones, any type of camera and videoing equipment are respected and adhered to
- Being aware and abiding by the Code of Ethics, Swim Ireland Guidelines for Safeguarding Children 2008, the rules and constitution of Swim Ireland and the rules and constitution of their own club
- Refraining from any behaviour that might bring the Club into disrepute