

BIRKENHEAD SWIMMING CLUB



www.birkenheadsc.org.uk

Lane sharing between adults and children

Wavepower Version 2.1, 16th May 2025: Swim England safeguarding policy

Swimming is a physical sport, and like many sports, there is an inherent risk in taking part. Birkenhead Swimming Club is committed to ensuring that any risks are kept to an absolute minimum. Swim England recognises that children and adults may train together in the same lane if they are of a like standard and physical size, but additional consideration to child safeguarding must be undertaken by the club.

Birkenhead Swimming Club has a number of Masters (adult) swimmers and the club recognises that training sessions with both adults and children should not be automatically ruled out. However, when lane sharing is unavoidable, coaches are required to conduct a risk assessment, paying particular attention to the mix of swimmers in each lane whilst taking the following factors into consideration.

- Suitability of lane supervision at club sessions involving under 18s
- The ages and sex of the swimmers
- The relative sizes and abilities of the swimmers
- The individual swimmers' lane discipline and precision of strokes
- Any lane etiquette guides, e.g. re 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 they have ensured that the club has an identified and publicised process by which concerns can be raised with an identified child welfare officer.

Adults will be asked to train in separate allocated lanes, unless directed by the head coach or coach leading the session. The head coach or coach leading the session may invite adults to train in a different lane depending on space, ability to complete the set and ability to maintain the level of swimming required for the lane for the session. If an adult is not able to maintain the standard of the lane, they will be asked to move to another lane during the session providing the above criteria are not compromised.

From time to time in exceptional circumstances it may not be possible to accommodate adults in a training session.

Whilst aiming to maintain flexibility for adults and children training at the same time, the decision regarding lane sharing is made by the coach at individual sessions.