

Swim England Team Manager, Coach and Chaperone Policy

Dear BWPL Member Club

Your Committee and Swim England have consulted, and the following notes represent the guidance on the application of the recently issued Team Manager, Coach and Chaperone Policy; "The Policy" (a copy of which can be found on the BWPL website together with the Swim England issued FAQs). It is important to recognise this is a supervision requirement for teams, not a safeguarding policy in that it does not go into the detail of the Safeguarding and DBS requirements of individuals, just the recommendations for safe supervision ratios of athletes whilst attending BWPL events.

The BWPL delivers events of the highest quality domestically and operates under Swim England's rules and regulations. In particular, all matches are refereed by Swim England National grade qualified referees and every match is overseen by a Swim England accredited delegate. Referees and match Delegates will be aware of any U18s involved in a match as highlighted on the match sheet generated by the BWPL data system from the submitted team lists. All players and team officials are confirmed as appropriately Swim England registered for the club they represent.

Swim England is very clear that it is entirely the responsibility of the clubs attending the competition to ensure the appropriate supervision is in place at all times and as described in "The Policy". The BWPL, its officers and officials appointed to any BWPL event have no responsibility or requirement to monitor or enforce the content of "The policy".

To help member clubs better understand the Swim England Policy the following guidance should be considered:

1. Member Clubs must take full responsibility for ensuring a safe environment for their competing team members.
2. As part of this letter BWPL asks that Clubs confirm, by return email, they have taken full note of the content of the "The Policy" and that they are aware of all Swim England required DBS checks and Safeguarding qualifications.
3. Any team attending a BWPL event with a mixture of under and over 18s should note the ratios applied to supervision are applicable to the number of under 18s participating.
4. If a team is attending with only adults who have reached their 18th birthday, it should provide an environment of safe supervision and apply the recommendation of two supervisory roles. This represents "best practice" and is strongly recommended by Swim England. This is particularly relevant if attending players are "just over 18". If a club feels it can provide a safe environment for its attending players without following this recommendation it must create a suitable risk assessment in advance of attending.

5. If a team comprises both under and over 18 year olds the Club must create a suitable risk assessment addressing the heightened risks and addressing them accordingly, again in advance of attending.
6. If a team includes one or more under 18s the club must have one person on poolside solely responsible for the safety of junior players. This could be the team manager or the assistant coach, acting in the capacity of team manager and qualified as such. This role is in addition to that of the head coach.
7. If the entire team is gathered on poolside during a BWPL event the minimum number of supervisory roles accompanying them on poolside should be two. If a third supervisory role is required, they can be located in the balcony with the team in full view.
8. If players are split between two locations the athletes off poolside must be supervised by the third member of staff.