



Policy for the Acceptable Use Mobile Phones & Portable Electronic Devices

Aim

The aim for this document is to clarify acceptable, safe and performance focused utilisation of Mobile Phones and portable electronic devices when working in the swimming environment.

Rationale

There are several reasons for this policy becoming part of the Club training / competing environment. It is recognised that smartphones contain a wide variety of functions which can be susceptible to misuse. Misuse includes taking and distribution of indecent images, exploitation and bullying.

Essentially, when training it is vital for athletes to be focused on the work being done and not distracted in any way whilst at the pool.

Misuse of smartphones can cause distress to individuals, impact on self-confidence and mental well-being, as well as impact on privacy and right to confidentiality. Such concerns are not exclusive to children and young people.

Policy Statement

Within the Swimming environment, the use of such devices is to be restricted to the following:

1. During Training – No access poolside or in the shower area or changing rooms of any training facility. With the exception of coaches use for emergency calls or videoing
2. Swimmers with devices may have them in their kit bags switched off until they are away from the pool, shower and changing area.
3. During Training and competition there may be a Club Device (e.g. iPad or laptop) available for timing, video analysis and on line details for the meet.

Inappropriate Use:

Members using vulgar, derogatory or obscene language while using a mobile phone will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Club.

Members using their mobile phone to engage in personal attacks, harass other people, post private information about others using SMS messages, taking/sending photos or objectionable images, and phone calls will face disciplinary actions as sanctioned by the Club, and may be subject to criminal proceedings.

Statement

The application of this policy is based on two key subjects:

1. The appropriate use of mobile phones and portable devices in the training and competition environments is essential.
2. Child protection and the minimizing of risk for criminal activity, through the misuse of portable electronic devices, whilst in the swimming pool environment.

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