



Tuesday 8th November

Dear Parent,

Unacceptable behaviour in the changing rooms

Following recent on-going problems, we are taking this opportunity to write to all families to remind you of the behavioural expectations that come with being a member of Halstead Swimming Club.

When your child joined the club, you were both asked to sign a code of conduct form, agreeing to abide by the rules of the club and not bring it into disrepute. Unfortunately, recent behaviour, predominately but not exclusively by the junior squad in the changing rooms before and after training, has been extremely disappointing and is unacceptable.

Swimmers have been seen by parents, coaches, pool staff and members of the public behaving poorly with complaints received regarding: climbing over and under cubicles, throwing peoples' belongings and other objects around the changing rooms, being very loud and boisterous and a complete lack of consideration for any other users of the centre.

The club enjoys a good relationship with the pool operator and the council and there is considerable goodwill in the relationship. This unacceptable behaviour must stop now for the good of the club and our relationship with the operator and all other users of the pool.

The junior swimmers have already been spoken to as a squad on several occasions, but the behaviour has continued. Unfortunately, the next step will have to be disciplinary action against the individuals involved. Obviously we would prefer not to have to do this, so please help the committee and coaches to bring this situation under control by speaking to your swimmer(s) about their behaviour and make them aware of the potential consequences of missing training or in extreme circumstances, being expelled from the club.

Important Wavepower update

Following attendance on a recent child protection course, we have been instructed by the ASA that if anybody is found to be taking inappropriate photos of others, the police must be informed immediately. It was confirmed that even if these photos are taken during a silly prank, we will not be able to use any discretion about reporting them.



Details of this ruling, together with lots of other guidance can be found on the ASA website in the Wavepower document:

Wavepower says; "An indecent image is one which is an image of an under 18 year old depicted in an indecent circumstance. It is a criminal offence to take, make, distribute (send), upload and/or possess any indecent image of a child (including those taken/possessed by other under 18 year olds)."

It goes on to say; "These images can be used to isolate and embarrass a child amongst their peer groups, exploit them, and in serious cases, make demands of children to carry out acts against their wishes. Any use of these child abuse images, or indeed the threat of such, can have devastating consequences for any child."

Obviously the consequences of these actions are very serious and could impact your child's future. Please take the time to discuss all the above information with them and emphasise the importance of behaving appropriately.

If you would like to discuss any of the contents of this letter please contact Donna on dsdtdkjwhall@tiscali.co.uk to arrange an appointment to speak to the welfare officer Sue Huggins.

Thank you for your attention and for helping us to bring this situation under control.

HSC Committee

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Please sign and return this section to say that you have received this letter and have spoken to your members(s) of HSC in respect to the content.

NAME

SWIMMER

SIGNED

RESPONSE NOTIFICATION MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY 25TH NOVEMBER
PLEASE RETURN TO HSC SECURE BOX NEXT TO THE NOTICE BOARD