



## **ANACONDA SWIMMING CLUB MOBILE PHONE COMMUNICATION POLICY**

Anaconda Swimming Club have reviewed their policy on electronic communication between coaches and their swimmers inline with Wavepower 2016-19 rules.

In most circumstances communication between all swimmers and their coach will be on the poolside. However, there may be occasions when a swimmer aged under 16 needs to contact their coach by text/ WhatsApp or phone hence Anaconda Swimming Club will provide swimmers and parents with the mobile telephone number of the coach, subject to the coach's agreement.

Swimmers aged 16 or under should only use the mobile number of his/her coach to inform them of lateness or absence at training or competition. For all other matters the swimmer should speak directly with the coach poolside before or after a session or use email, copying in the swimmer's parent/guardian.

Coaches of elite swimmers aged under 18 but over 16 may, with the consent of the athlete's parent or guardian, use text messaging/ WhatsApp or email to communicate with the athlete for training and competition purposes only.

There may be some occasions, for example on training camps and meets abroad/Nationals, when a coach or accompanying adult will hold a swimmer's mobile phone number on their phone. In these situations, a 'WhatsApp' group will be set up for the duration of the gala/camp/foreign meet.

If you do not want your child to communicate under any circumstances via mobile or email with his/her coach, please email the coach and club welfare officer

Guidance for Coaches on mobile phone use:

- Coaches of elite athletes under 18 but over 16 may, with the consent of the athlete's parent or guardian, use text messaging or email to communicate with the athlete for training and competition purposes.
- In general, the coach should not text or call an individual swimmer under the age of 16 or hold the numbers of swimmers aged under 16 on their phone.
- For swimmers aged under 16 a text/call should only be initiated by the swimmer and this should only be to inform the coach re lateness/absence at training or competition.
- When a coach receives a text or call from a swimmer under age 16 he/she should respond as is required or appropriate; the swimmer's number should then be deleted.

The coach should not conduct a conversation by text or in a call with an individual swimmer.

- Training Camps and Meets Abroad/Nationals: for safeguarding reasons, it is sensible for the coaches, chaperone and team manager to hold the mobile numbers of all individuals on the training camp or meet outside the UK. A 'WhatsApp' group should be set up for the duration of the camp/meet. At the conclusion of the event, the 'WhatsApp' group should be deleted from the coaches' phones.
- Coaches should not take or make calls whilst supervising young members in a teaching or training session. It is permissible for a coach to make or take a call during an event provided they are not the sole supervisor of the swimmers.

Wavepower 2016-19