

Scenario A – indecent images

A swimmer reported a phone being placed under the cubicle and a picture being taken whilst they were getting changed.

The swimmer is 13 years old. They reported this to you and believed the culprit to be in the next cubicle.

Q. What would you do?

Scenario B – social media outside of sport

A parent of a diver complained to you.

They said the sibling of another diver had been making horrible comments about their child on Facebook.

It appeared the diver had accepted the sibling as a friend on Facebook.

The sibling was also known to the diver through school where they both attend.

Q. What would you do?

Scenario C – concerns for child / duty of care

You found a water polo player aged 12 was dropped off at the pool by a parent at 7pm but that child was then left to return home on foot and alone at 8.30pm when it was dark.

To get home they had to cross a main road and several minor roads.

You were concerned for their safety after leaving the club and before they got home.

They also failed to attend, without notice, galas and leagues for which they were chosen.

Q. Are the club responsible for the child's welfare after they leave the club?

Q. What would you do?

Scenario D – self-harm

A club has a 15 year swimmer who also helps out at the club.

They have been with the club since they were nine, they have a good relationship with the club and strong friendships with other swimmers.

It is known that they have a difficult relationship with their Mum, since their father died when they were 13. There are no concerns of abuse at home and Mum is supportive of their child's swimming and getting them to and from sessions.

You have noticed open cuts on the swimmer's arms and wrists, which indicate the swimmer may be self-harming. The swimmer has not attempted to hide the wounds.

You have asked the swimmer about the marks, they admit self-harming and they tell you they enjoy swimming and helping out and does not want to stop. They feel their issues stem from losing their father and they find it difficult to tell their Mum how they feel about this.

Q. What would you do?

Scenario E – criminal offence concern / position of trust / personal friend

You have heard from a “reliable” source that a Team Manager at the club has been arrested for downloading child abuse images.

The Team Manager is also a family friend who you have known for many years. The source has told you the Team Manager has had their phone and computer equipment seized and has been released under investigation by the Police.

You know the Team Manager is due to take a group of swimmers away to an event in two weeks and that trip will involve an overnight stay.

Q. What would you do?

Scenario F – late collection

You have arrived back at the home club following an away meet at the weekend. Parents and carers have assembled to collect their children. All our collected apart from one child, who is 14.

The swimmer appears anxious and upset their parents haven't arrived. The swimmer has tried to contact their parents and the emergency contacts provided by the parents to the club are just going to voice mail.

Swim England is not open at weekends and your Welfare Officer is on holiday.

Q. The team staff for the meet have been waiting for 30 minutes with the child. What would you do?

Scenario G – alleged abuse of position of trust / grooming

You have noticed that a male 45 year old coach appears to be favouring a particular swimmer, who is 14 years old and swims in their squad.

The child is very quiet and shy and does not mix easily with the other children. You have overheard the coach talking to the swimmer, offering them lifts and suggesting a trip to the cinema. You have also witnessed the coach hugging them and putting his arm around their shoulders.

The parent of the child sits poolside and has commented to other parents that she is thankful to this coach for his friendship and support he has given to her family. At a recent club social event the child was sat on the coach's lap with their mother sat next to them.

Other children and parents are beginning to notice and you have heard comments made about grooming.

Q. What would you do?

Scenario H – transition from participant to holding a position of trust

A 17 year old, who has been with your club as a swimmer since they were 10, has recently undertaken an assistant coach course. Many of the children know the 17 year old as a friend and all of the children talk to one another on social media outside the remit of the club.

A parent has raised a concern about some of the contact between the 17 year old and other swimmers. Contact was not criminal or abusive but the parent is worried it could be misconstrued by others. They are concerned that the 17 year old does not understand the responsibility that comes with holding a position of trust at the club.

Whilst it is appreciated that they are still a child and talking to their swimming friends, they now also hold a position of trust in respect of those friends.

Q. What would you do?