



Changing Room Policy

Swim Ireland rules states that no parent or coach enters the changing room at any time.

In the case of an emergency when there is no alternative a parent may enter the changing room once they do so chaperoned by another parent or staff member.

“Parents/guardians should be made aware by the Club/Region/Swim Ireland that changing facilities may be shared by both Swim Ireland members and members of the general public; it therefore may not be possible to provide supervision in these areas. This must be communicated to all members taking part – whether for a training session, competition or any other activity. The parent/guardian should discuss these circumstances with their child ensuring their child is aware of who to talk to if any issues arise in unsupervised areas.

If the changing area is open to the public, parents can choose to remain with their child in the appropriate (gender dependant) changing area; usually facilities will only allow adult men in the male changing area and adult women in the female changing area. Where family or communal rooms are provided parents/guardians should check with the facility Any supervision provided in a changing area must be by adults in pairs of the appropriate gender, i.e. only adult males can supervise male only changing areas and only adult females can supervise female only changing areas Leaders should not have to enter the changing rooms unless part of the supervision rota. There may be circumstances where children need extra assistance or there is an issue, in which case supervision in pairs of the appropriate gender should be provided where this is a regular occurrence. In an emergency circumstance the safety and well-being of a child must be considered above all else. For any event, training or competition if the changing rooms are open to the public, e.g. Club use of the pool in a leisure facility with other activities using the changing areas. In these cases this must be clear to participants prior to the event.”

Taken from the Swim Ireland Guidance 2010

<https://www.swimireland.ie/files/documents/Supervision-2010.pdf>

Ideally, groups of children should have sole use of changing facilities. This reduces any risks and potential vulnerability associated with mixing with adults or other young people (known or unknown to them) when changing and showering.

Child and Adult squad members

Children in a squad may be of varying ages, it would not be unusual to have an age range from 14 to 20s, 30s or 40s in the national squad. It is reasonable that children aged under 18 years and over 18 years can change in the same changing room. Cognisance must be given to team spirit and squad support and bonding when devising this guideline and consideration for children of all ages be given. *There is no legislation that supports children both under and over 18 changing separately.*

Camera equipment and phone cameras in the changing room

- Swim Ireland policy recommends that camera phones should not be allowed in changing room areas due to the possible inappropriate use that may cause upset or offence to another person. If you have a phone with you it must be turned off and not switched back on until you have left the changing room.
- If a swimmer needs to receive or make a call/text from a mobile device with or without a camera we request that this happens in the lobby or other public area where there is less likelihood for any such use to be misinterpreted.
- Any person taking inappropriate photographs will be reported to the Designated Person or other such responsible person, e.g. Club Children's Officer or event organiser.
- Children's phones must be turned off when in the changing room or if required given to the coach until the end of the session and the children are out of the changing room.

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