



TROJAN SWIMMING CLUB 'PARENT ON THE BANK' GUIDELINES

Under Swim Ireland rules it is a requirement that a parent, guardian or adult member of the swim club is present on poolside for all swimming sessions, or in attendance at gym sessions, when the swimmers are under 18 years. This is designed to protect both the swimmer and the coach and needs to be adhered to at all times (Swim Ireland, 2019).

In Trojan this role is known as the '**Parent On the Bank**', or '**POB**'.

1. **Attendance.** An adult (over the age of 18 years) must be on duty as POB at all club sessions, swimming or gym. The POB should arrive before the start of the session, as training cannot commence until the parent is present.
2. **Responsibility.** The POB should observe the session and the interactions between or among swimmers and coaches. This means observing the child's and the coaches demeanour, if there are specific engagements between a coach and a swimmer, or between a swimmer and another swimmer, they must be in a position to hear the conversation between swimmer and coach.
3. **Location.** The POB must sit in a location that allows them to hear the interactions between the coach and the child, normally the bank or seated area beside the pool. In UCD, the POB will wear blue overshoes and sit outside the normal spectator area, half way up along the pool bank to hear and see any interactions as they occur. Blue pool shoes are available at the pool entrance. Speak with the life guard about your intention to sit on the pool bank giving them Steven Davitt's (Pool Manager's) name if required- permission has been sought by the committee.
4. **Survey.** The POB must complete the required POB survey form online. This is specific to each squad and is distributed by the squad Representative who is normally a parent of a swimmer in each squad. Children should only be identified by their initials or first name in order to comply with GDPR (Data Protection). In the case where two children have the same name, the POB may use an initial for the surname.
5. **Recording.** The POB should use the survey form to record any swimmer who is:
 1. Ill;
 2. Injured; or
 3. leaves the session early;and record this in the POB survey.
6. **Illness.** In the event a child becomes ill, the POB will contact the parent to arrange collection. The POB will stay with the child until collected.
7. **Incidents.** Any incident of note is recorded in the POB survey or an incident form is generated. A member of the committee must be alerted of any event of particular concern.
8. **Accidents.** In the event of an accident or emergency the swimmers parent or guardian should be contacted as soon as possible. In the case of serious incidents the Pool Management and/or the emergency services should also be notified. The Club Children's Officer (CCO) is informed in the event of an emergency involving the child.
9. **Departure.** The POB is required to be in the vicinity of the pool/ outside the changing rooms for a period of 15 minutes after the end of the session. They should stay until all children are collected. If underage members are not collected from the pool the POB is asked to be especially aware that at times the Pool or Sports Centre may be very quiet or closed. Please notify your squad Rep or a Committee Member if any underage swimmer is not collected (or collected late) from sessions on a regular basis.
10. **Permissions.** A parent may give permission for their child to leave the pool area unaccompanied if the child is 16 or above and they have signed below to state that they are



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giving consent. In the event that this is the case, the squad Rep is made aware and the POBs are alerted to this detail. See **Appendix 1** below.

Revised by Trojan Swimming Club CCO – September 2023



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Appendix 1

Consent by parent for child to leave the swim session without a parent or responsible adult

I, _____, parent of the child _____

give permission for this child to leave the swimming or gym session unaccompanied by an adult, parent or guardian.

I am aware that I take full responsibility for any issue that could arise.

Signature _____

Date _____

Signature of Rep or Trojan Committee Member _____

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