

GATESHEAD AND WHICKHAM AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

CHARTER FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND CARERS OF CLUB ATHLETES AND SWIMMERS

Gateshead and Whickham ASC Parents Charter and Codes of Conduct are in place to ensure that every Club swimmer, coach, member, parent or official is protected from any form of bullying, harassment or unpleasant behaviour and that our children and members are free to participate in a safe and friendly environment where they are respected and appreciated

This charter is an extension to the Amateur Swimming Association's [Code of Ethics](#) and should be read in conjunction with [WavePower Sub-Section 2.3 - Codes of Conduct](#) and with WavePower Sub-Section 2.4 – Policies, Procedures and Guidance.

Gateshead and Whickham ASC will demand the highest of standards from all the parents, guardians or carers of Club athletes whilst in any environment involving the Club. Any breach of this charter, associated or related policies, procedures or guidance provided by the ASA or the Club may result in temporary suspension or permanent exclusion from their designated role or, if the seriousness warrants it, from the Club.

Responsibilities to swimmers:

As a responsible parent, guardian or carer of an athlete or member of the Club I will:

- complete and return the Medical Information Form as requested by the organisation and provide details of any health conditions/concerns relevant to my child on the consent form. I will report any changes in the state of my child's health to the coach prior to training sessions or events. I will ensure that the organisation has up-to-date contact details for me and for any alternative person(s) as required.
- deliver and collect my child punctually to and from training sessions/events. I will inform a member of the committee or coaching staff if there is an unavoidable problem. If the organisation changes my child's lane and/or changing times, I will remember that the change is to provide appropriate levels of training and to enable my child to progress, and I should therefore support and encourage this at all times.
- ensure that I, or an alternative responsible adult is contactable during all training, competition and social events.
- ensure my child is properly and adequately attired for the training session/ events including all mandatory equipment, e.g. hats, goggles, etc.
- inform the coach/welfare officer before a session if my child is to be collected early from a training session/event and if so, by whom.

- encourage my child to obey the rules and teach them that they can only do their best.
- behave responsibly as a spectator during training/events and treat members, coaches, committee members and other parents of members of both my child's organisation and any other organisation with due respect, in accordance with the ASA commitment to equality and diversity.
- refrain from using inappropriate language within the organisation environment.
- show appreciation and support my child and all the team members.
- ensure my child's needs are met in terms of nutrition and I will listen to advice given from the coach/nutritionist.
- Ensure that submissions of all due fees, gala entries and other appropriate information is timely and accurate.
- support the coach and committee appropriately and raise any concerns I may have in an appropriate manner to the welfare officer.
- not enter poolside unless requested to do so or in an emergency.
- If I wish to have a discussion with the coach, I will check with the swimming group representative or welfare officer as to how this can be arranged.
- Inform the appropriate coach when a swimmer is not available for any selected event.
- help my child to enjoy the sport and to achieve their goals to the best of their ability.

THE CLUB WILL:

- Inform you at once if your child becomes ill and will ensure their well-being until you are able to collect him/her.
- Ensure good child safeguarding guidelines are followed at all times to keep your child safe.
- Ensure all activities are properly supervised/ taught/coached and that consent is obtained for any activity outside of that previously agreed.
- Respond appropriately to any formal complaint or grievance.
- Act accordingly where inappropriate behaviour by any Club officer, member, parent or coach is reported or witnessed

YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO:

- Make a complaint to the organisation if you feel the organisation or a member of the organisation is not acting appropriately or in accordance with ASA/organisation rules and regulations. Details of how to do this can be obtained from the welfare officer.
- Make a complaint on behalf of your child to the ASA Office of Judicial Administration.
- Make a complaint to the ASA's Independent Child Protection Officer (ICPO)



The Club needs to support of parents, guardians and carers to continue to operate. This is much wider than just being a committee member. Whilst recognising that lives are becoming much busier and more hectic for everyone, there remains an expectation that all parents, guardians and carers look to support Club fundraising endeavours, social events and other important activity.

Without this tangible support, we cannot continue.

