

Surf Life Saving Association of Wales

Welsh Stillwaters - Safeguarding Information for Clubs to cascade to under 18 year old competitors and parents / guardians.

The Stillwaters is a fantastic event for our youngest members. They create great memories, put all their training into practise, achieve amazing things and also make new friends. This is how it should be.

With an event this size, with the number of Nippers entering, safeguarding rules have to be set and followed and parents expect nothing less of us. Please can Team Managers take some time to speak to their club personnel and Nippers attending on the day to go through the following safeguarding requirements.

When we say Nippers / Youth, this applies to under 18 year members

Please can all Nippers **remain in the competition area** and out of the changing room area. There is no reason for Nipper competitors to be gathering, running around or grouping for a chat in the changing rooms or any area behind the competition area. Please ask your Nippers to remain poolside apart from visiting the toilets etc.

Event organisers would like to make the photography policy clear to all participants and parents ahead of the event. For the purposes of safeguarding, we have imposed a strict ban on photography of any form in the changing rooms and shower area and this includes any part of the behind the pool area. Such bans cover participants, spectators, parents too and all staff working under the umbrella of SLSA Wales and volunteers. No phones in this area.

This has been further communicated by signage placed in these areas by the venue itself and by myself (SLSA Wales Safeguarding). If anyone is suspected of taking images of children in a state of undress, the facility manager and safeguarding lead should be informed immediately and the police consulted.

There will be **welfare officers visible on the day wearing pink Hi-Viz**, their role is to be there for competitor safety. They will ask Nipper members to make their way back to the competition area if seen in the area behind the pool or wandering around the venue. Our young competitors are to respect their position and request. We will respectfully come and speak to Team Managers if safeguarding requests are ignored and the same Nippers make their way back to the changing areas behind the pool. Points may be deducted if Nippers don't comply, for their own safety.

For clubs or parents taking photographs, please ensure they are taken in the context of the sport and contain just the members of your club. Photographs should be shared on club social media where members only are given access. Clubs should be aware of their members competing whose parents have signed the photography consent form stating they do not wish photographs of their children appearing on social media or club social media groups.

Can Team Managers ensure that they confirm with their club Safeguarding Officers (SO) if there is anyone whose parent **has signed a consent to photography form stating that they do not wish to be included in any photo's**. If unsure, please speak to your club SO prior to uploading on club websites which should be restricted to members only.

If you have a **club photographer taking pictures or any member of your club that arrives with a long lens camera**, they must sign the photography sheet which is held on the medals table and display the appropriate lanyard which will be given to them on signing.

If you notice a **Nipper has been missing** from the team group and all searches result in you not finding them **please notify the event organiser or myself as soon as possible**. If you feel that a young person is displaying a possible tendency to exit the building during the competition please make us aware. This could be due to a behavioural trait or emotions on the day. **As above, please emphasise the need to stay in the competition area.**

Wrist bands are available for any young competitor to wear to communicate that they do not wish or parents have signed the club's photography consent form stating that they do not give their permission for their child to be photographed. Please abide by their wishes at all times.

Toilets for our young competitors to use are next to the showers. The toilets at the other end of the pool area where there is 1 male and 1 female are now designated to the timekeepers and officials as they don't have the time to go to the other end. Nipper members are asked to respect the venue toilet facilities. We have had instances of Nippers at the Stillwaters blocking the toilets with tissue paper or pulling tissue paper off the rolls and leaving in the cubicles. Hopefully that won't happen this year.

For inclusivity, please let the organiser know if you have a competitor who **has hearing difficulties** prior to the race so that we can ensure that the starting light is visible to them.

It is all of our responsibility to be vigilant, please advise parents that if they spot anything they are unsure of or doesn't feel right, to come and speak to the event organiser or myself as soon as possible.

Julie Wisden – Safeguarding Lead – 07853 000457

Simon Perry – Event Organiser

