

Child Welfare

Calling all swimmers!

Your club needs to have ways of listening to your ideas or sorting out any problems you might have.

Swimming is fun you should be enjoying it. But it may be you are not really happy about something. Problems big or small can be sorted out.

All clubs are required to have procedures in place to help you in the event that you want to talk to someone.

Maybe it is a simple thing about views which you want to express but don't feel you have an opportunity to do so.

It may be that you are concerned at the way you are being treated.

Maybe you feel someone is bullying you

It may be that you are worried that a particular situation is very uncomfortable and you think it is wrong.

Whatever the reason **there is someone you can talk to...whatever your age...**, every club has in place certain people who are there to help you.

You can approach these people yourself or if you prefer you can ask one of your parents to talk to them.

You can talk to any of the following.

Children's Officers.

Every club should have two Children's Officers. Their job is to make sure that you enjoy your swimming and that nothing interferes with this. They are there for you, to listen to any suggestions you may have to make your swimming more enjoyable

and to help you with any problem big or small that you may feel you need to discuss. It need not necessarily be a problem concerning your swimming. Particularly if it is a problem that you are uncomfortable with or that you think is wrong, contact your Children's Officer as soon as possible and they will help you.

Club Captains

They are there to represent you. If you have some good suggestions for your club or would like things done differently or whatever, talk to them. They will approach the committee on your behalf without (if you wish) naming you. If the problem is very serious they may have to bring it to the attention of the Children's Officers.

Club Officers (President, Chairman, Hon.Treasurer, Hon Sec)

Perhaps the club Hon. Secretary or one of the officers is someone you can approach and talk to about your concerns. If you are a young swimmer, maybe you could ask one of your parents to talk to a club Officer with or without you being present.

Coach

Concerns might relate to something that affects you in training. It is likely that just asking your coach, if you can talk to them during a session, might sort out the problem.

For Parents

The same officials are available for you to talk to and procedures are required in your club so that if you have a concern or complaint, you can have it promptly and satisfactorily dealt with.

For Coaches

Remember children come to swimming because they want to have fun and enjoy themselves. You are the person they look up to. Clubs are required to have in place "Duties and Responsibilities" for coaching staff. These should give you guidance on your role. It is usual that any concerns you have would be communicated to the Children's officers, Hon. Secretary or committee officers. The various documents in place, "Code of Ethics and Good Practice in Children's Sport in Ireland" and the "Child Protection Guidelines Booklet", and in particular the "officials Code of Ethics" a copy of which you have signed, are there for everyone's safety. Be very aware of their contents and be conscious of unsafe practices and conditions. Your prime responsibility is the best welfare of your swimmers.

For swimmers, parents and coaches

If these procedures don't work then you have the right to appeal to Swim Ireland who has clear procedures in place to deal with complaints.