

Introduction

Wavepower 2020-23 is the new Swim England Child Safeguarding Policies and Procedures manual which replaces all previous versions. Swim England has produced this document to assist in safeguarding and protecting all children in our sports. Wavepower must be adopted by all Swim England affiliated clubs and organisations.

Although Wavepower is primarily aimed at Swim England affiliated clubs, it can also be utilised by swim schools and other related organisations, events or activities where appropriate. If you are reading this document, but do not consider your organisation to be a club, please apply the guidance to your own particular scenario. The word “club” or “organisation” will be used henceforth as a general term, to refer to any Swim England affiliated club, swim school, event or activity, unless otherwise stated. Similarly, the word “member” will be used to refer to any child or young person who is a member of any Swim England affiliated organisation, be that a club, swim school or other related organisation across all our disciplines.

The aim of Wavepower is to safeguard all children in line with current legislation, regulations and guidance and is for use within any Swim England affiliated organisation where children are present. A child is anyone under the age of 18. Wavepower consistently emphasises that the responsibility for child safeguarding in our organisations belongs with all those involved in our sports and is not the sole responsibility of any one person at local, county or national level.

This document provides comprehensive information in one place for officers, members, members’ parents/guardians and all individuals involved in our sports. It is subdivided into specific sections to make it concise, straightforward and easy to use.

The Welfare Officer, or the equivalent in each organisation, will be the person most likely to use the guidance in Wavepower and it

is they who will be responsible for holding and maintaining the publication. They will be expected to make Wavepower available to all individuals who request to consult it and to pass it on to the new Welfare Officer whenever changes occur.

The Welfare Officer or equivalent will find Wavepower helpful in guiding them to plan, prioritise and implement the various safeguarding activities that are necessary to protect children within our sports.

The aim of such a comprehensive manual is to enable everyone in our sports to play their part in safeguarding children. It offers practical guidance for those who are directly involved in our sports with children, providing information on mandatory requirements and good practice.

This document will be updated in 2023, but when updates or changes take place either in Swim England or through statute or governmental guidance, the Welfare Officer will be sent additional or replacement pages or be referred to our website to download relevant documents. It is the responsibility of the Welfare Officer to keep Wavepower updated.

The information sheet and emergency contact details, which can be found at the front of Wavepower, contains the contact details for various child protection agencies that can be used either in an emergency or as a matter of course, and should be completed by the Welfare Officer on receipt of this publication. Please contact the Child Safeguarding Team if you are unsure of how to find any of these contact details and would like some assistance.