



Platypus Swimming Club – Club Rules & Code of Conduct

Policy Version: 1.0

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Next Review Due: November 2026

Approved by: Platypus Swimming Club Committee

Introduction

Platypus Swimming Club is a community-run club that provides exclusive access to Hatfield swimming pool for disabled people and their families or carers. We do not teach swimming. Instead, we provide a safe, welcoming space for free swimming, play, sensory enjoyment, and relaxed recreation in the water. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive, non-discriminatory environment where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. This policy applies to all members and carers involved with the Club. The Club is managed by a committee of members and run entirely by volunteers.

Linked to other Policies:

- *Better Hatfield Leisure Centre rules also apply and take priority*
 - Rules can be viewed here: <https://www.better.org.uk/lp/swim-safety-rules>
- *Platypus Swimming Club's Safeguarding children and young people policy*
- *Platypus Swimming Club's Safeguarding of vulnerable adults policy*

Rules and Conduct:

1. Supervision & Session Start

- Swimmers must sign in with the Session Supervisor (a committee member or appointed person).
- Swim sessions must not begin until a lifeguard is on poolside
- The Session Supervisor oversees the register and session setup. They may not remain at the pool the entire session but are available at the start.

2. Entering & Leaving the Pool

- Swimmers must only enter the water when a lifeguard is present.
- Exit the water calmly when asked or at the end of the session.

3. Safety in the Pool

- The pool uses a drowning detection system to support lifeguards.
- No diving, running, pushing, rough play, or entering restricted areas (like the diving pool) unless supervised.
- Always follow lifeguards' instructions.

4. Respectful Behaviour

- Everyone deserves a safe and welcoming space.
- Be mindful of others' space, energy levels, and comfort zones.
- All movement, sound, and joyful expression are welcome — as long as they're safe and respectful.
- Please move gently, especially around swimmers who need more space or support.
- Avoid high-energy play near others unless they've agreed.

5. If Something Feels Unsafe

- We will respond to unsafe behaviour with support and care.
- There may be times when a break from swimming is needed.
- Please speak to the Session Supervisor or a committee member if you're ever unsure about something.

6. Phones & Devices

- No phones or cameras on the poolside or in changing rooms unless used for medical/communication needs (check with the supervisor or committee if you are unsure).
- Photos/videos need advance permission from the committee.

7. Changing Rooms

- Keep shared changing areas respectful and tidy.
- No filming or photography.
- Respect everyone's privacy.

8. Inclusion, Support & Safeguarding

- We welcome swimmers of all abilities.
- Bullying, discrimination, or harassment will not be tolerated.
- Parents/carers must stay on-site if the swimmer is under 18 or needs support.
- Anyone under 8 years old must be accompanied in the water by a responsible adult.
- Speak to the Club Welfare Officer or any committee member if you have concerns.



Platypus Swimming Club – Key Rules Summary

We are an inclusive club where everyone deserves to feel safe, welcome, and respected.

Please follow these key rules:

1. Follow the pool's rules (Better Hatfield). Club rules work alongside them.
2. Only enter the water when a lifeguard gives permission.
3. Move safely – no fast running, pushing, or rough play that could hurt others.
4. Be kind and respectful – everyone is different and that's okay.
5. Use all pools considerately – some swimmers need more space or support.
6. Phones are not allowed poolside (unless for medical or communication needs).
7. If the alarm sounds, stop and wait for instructions from staff.
8. Tell a committee member if you're worried about safety or behaviour.
9. Everyone must sign in before swimming.

Expressions of joy, play, or movement are welcome – as long as they are safe for everyone.