

## Swim England North West – Welfare Officer

What a great start for the Swim England North West summer regional championships.

It was great to see so many swimmers reach their potential and, in some cases, gain qualifying times for national events.

However, we did a small number of welfare / safeguarding issues over the weekend and it would be great if these could be noted so we do not have a repeat of these over the next 2 weekends.

### **Mobile Phones**

We introduced new signage at the event to make everyone aware of the new Wavepower rules which states:

***Mobile phones and devices should not be used under any circumstances in a changing room area during Swim England regulated activity. This should be supported by clear signage in changing rooms confirming a zero-tolerance approach to the use of mobile phones in changing areas.***

Please see Wavepower Section 3 – Page 82 - <https://www.swimming.org/swimengland/wavepower-child-safeguarding-for-clubs/>

Despite the signage we still had a small number of athletes and coaches using mobile phones in the changing rooms, this will not be tolerated at future events and could result in withdrawal from events.

The rules are in place to keep everyone safe and your compliance of the rules would be appreciated.

A PDF version of our poster was emailed to clubs last week on the weekly newsletter and is attached again this week and I would recommend that clubs utilise that resource at local club events.

We will also shortly be making our pull up banners which were on display at the weekend available to clubs to purchase for use at meets across the region to raise further awareness of the policy.

### **Poolside changing**

A number of swimmers over the weekend were changing under towels on the poolside, this is a serious safeguarding issue.

Please remember that the event is being streamed live on YouTube and swimmers were changing directly in front of the cameras, it would only take a slip of a towel for an embarrassing image to be streamed live on the internet, which I am sure would very quickly go viral on social media.

Can all swimmers use the changing rooms at all future SENW events and all other meets across the region.

### **Glass**

Can we remind everyone that under no circumstances should glass be brought poolside.

On Saturday afternoon a glass drinks bottle was poolside which was subsequently smashed on the pool deck.

Luckily on this occasion it was cleaned up quickly by the lifeguard's and the glass did not get into the pool.

This could have turned into a serious incident if someone had been hurt or if glass had got into the pool which would have resulted in the event being cancelled whilst the pool was drained and filters checked.

Good luck to all athletes and clubs over the next 2 weekends.

Beverley Raistick  
Swim England North West – Welfare Officer