



## **Special Needs and Disability Policy**

(20<sup>th</sup> February 2015)

The Club is a voluntary organisation that welcomes children of all abilities. Whilst some of our coaches and teachers may have experience of working with children with disabilities they do not hold specific qualifications relating to the teaching of swimming to children with disabilities.

As with all members, any child with a disability joining the club does so on the understanding that the club reserves the right to terminate membership if the child's behaviour is disruptive or poses a risk to other members.

A parent / guardian of the child with a disability must be available within the spectator area at all times during swimming activities to offer support and advice as necessary.

Parents / guardian of any child with a disability are responsible for sharing with the teacher / coach all relevant information which may support the teaching of the child and maintain their safety during the session.

Additionally the child's attendance may be reviewed if:

- The coaching / teaching volunteers are not able to engage with and/or advance the child's ability in and around an aquatic environment.
- It is felt that it is not in the child's best interests to continue membership of the club.

In addition to the rules and provisions in place to support club members the following may also apply to children with disabilities:

- Children with disabilities may be provided with additional support to enable them to better access activities, however as volunteers are limited the aim will always be that the child is taught as part of an existing group rather than on an individual basis.
- As volunteers are limited it may be necessary, as a last resort, to reallocate any identified volunteer for the child to support another group activity. Should this happen, and if appropriate, the child may be invited to take part in one of the scheduled sessions, subject to the agreement of the teacher / coach taking that session.

- If the child is allocated a specific teacher / coach and that person is not present at the training session it may be that the child will not be able to take part in the session. Where absenteeism is known about ahead of time the club will endeavour to inform the parent/carer of the child. In some circumstances it may be possible to provide alternative support but this will be subject to the availability of volunteers and the needs of the child.