

# Merton Pisces Swimming Club

## Club Guidelines for Membership



### **Club Objectives**

Merton Pisces Swimming Club provides swimming coaching / teaching for children in Merton, Sutton and surrounding areas of South West London. The Club offers an independent teaching programme for children aged 7 years and upwards, from the child who can swim 25m or more to the most competitive and skilled swimmer. The Club's mission is to develop the character traits, technical skills and enthusiasm that will enable each swimmer to realize their sporting potential. Each member of Merton Pisces learns the values of sportsmanship, teamwork & respect. The experience of swimming with the Club will provide physical, emotional and intellectual skills that will last a lifetime.

Have a look at our [testimonials page](#) to see what other members have become and their experiences.

### **Swimmers Responsibilities**

- To wear the club costume and hat.
- It is your responsibility to make sure you have all the items you need for swimming before leaving home.
- To make sure you arrive on time and are ready to start your session with all the equipment you need.
- To pay attention and to always try hard and do your best.
- To ensure you maintain discipline in and out of the water.
- Not to disrupt lessons or interfere with the training of other swimmers.
- To treat all members, volunteers, teachers, coaches & public with respect.
- To never take photos or videos of other members at any time, unless authorized by the head coach.
- To never make derogatory posts on social media about other members, volunteers or staff members.
- To always act responsibly and not indulge in acts of horseplay or actions which may cause damage, accident or injury.
- To always set a good example to others.
- It is your club, and you are responsible for both yourself and others.
- If someone is messing about, you should report this straight away.
- It is only by us all working together can we have a happy friendly club.
- Trips and fun nights are for enjoying yourselves, training sessions are for discipline and concentration.
- If you are not concentrating and messing about you may be asked to leave the pool. This is your fault.
- The club will not tolerate foul language or discrimination of any kind, everyone is to be treated equally.
- Bad behaviour will not be tolerated and may result in you being asked to leave the club.

## **Parents & Guardians Responsibilities**

- To make sure your children have read the **Swimmers Responsibilities** above and know what is expected of them.
- For you to have read the important documents that maintain the rules and regulation of the club.
- As with all information, these are available on the website.
  - [The guidelines for membership](#)
  - [The Club Constitution](#)
  - [The Club Terms & Conditions](#)
  - [The Privacy Policy](#)
- Please remember that the club is for children wishing to learn to swim and the club has fixed sessions for different levels of swimmer. We cannot make sessions and times to suit your requirements, it is for you to fit in with the club. We have 100's of members and we cannot please everyone, but we do try to make sure there are several sessions available for everyone.
- We understand that children may do other sports, but there will be times when we need them to put swimming first. Our yearly club championships is something that everyone is expected to attend. It is important to both the members and to the club. It is held on the same days every year and cannot be changed.
- To make sure that all fees of any type are made promptly. (on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> October)
- **It is not the coach's job to chase you for payments.**
- If the members fees are not paid, we regret that we will have no alternative but to exclude that member from the session. If you have a genuine difficulty paying fees, please do not hesitate to speak to the head coach who will be happy to discuss this in confidence.
- A swimmer will not be allowed to participate if they do not have the club costume and hat. If for some reason this is not possible, please speak to the head coach before entering the pool.
- To bring swimmers to their sessions on time and check that the session is proceeding before leaving.
- Parents should not simply drop off and leave but accompany their children into the building.
- To arrive in time to collect their children at the end of the session and to come in and collect them. If for some reason this is not possible, then please notify the head coach as soon as you can.
- To ensure that your children behave in a sensible manner that does not interfere with other members, volunteers, pool staff or the public.
- There are times when the coach may want to speak with you and it would be appreciated if when you come in to pick up your child if you could make the time to do this.
- **To encourage your children to swim and to participate in their efforts.**
- It is your responsibility to check the [sessions calendars](#) and to attend on time with the right equipment.
- All club information is on the website, please check it regularly to stay up to date with any changes.
- The swimming club is for children that are interested in swimming and want to advance.
- If a member doesn't want to train and participate then they should not attend.
- If a member attends a session and is disruptive, they may be asked to leave the pool.
- If you child has an illness or an injury, please notify the head coach before the session starts.

- Work with the coach and ensure that your children follow their coach's advice.
- Please remember that the club has over two hundred members. At times the club's objectives and needs may conflict with your own wishes. When this does happen, please bear in mind the club's overall objectives when discussing the situation with the head coach. We cannot change things just to suit you.
- To work positively to resolve any disputes that your son or daughter may have with another member. If the two parties concerned and their parents are unable to arrive at a reasonable solution, such disputes should be discussed with the head coach.
- Your help and participation in the club is not expected but would be most welcome, even little jobs help the club run smoothly. The occasional assistance goes a long way.

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## **Coaches Responsibilities**

- To start sessions on time (Where possible)
- On matters of discipline, the coach has absolute discretion and swimmers proving to be disruptive may be asked to leave the pool and remain on the poolside until the session ends. The coach also has the discretion to ban a disruptive member, swimmer from subsequent sessions and activities.
- Coaches will not allow swimmers out of the pool area (toilet breaks excepted) until the end of any session without prior arrangement with parents / guardians or if they are ill.
- Coaches will make time to discuss coaching/swimming issues with parents outside of sessions.
- The coaches and club will endeavour to provide parents with regular updates on their child's progress and advise on any swimming related problems.
- Coaches will try to encourage swimmers, but not bully them. If a child is feeling like they are being picked on by anyone, then please contact the [clubs welfare officer through the website](#).
- Coaches and volunteers are responsible for all the children's welfare.
- Our aim is to have happy disciplined children that can swim to the best of their ability.

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The club constitution ([available on our website](#)) covers all rules and regulations and should be read before joining.

### **A selection of sections from the constitution that are most applicable to members:**

#### **2 Objectives**

- 2.1.1** The Club is committed to treating everyone equally within the context of its activity and with due respect to the differences of individuals. It shall not apply nor endorse unlawful or unjustified discrimination and shall act in compliance with the protections afforded by the Equality Act 2010
- 2.3.2** The Clubs coaches and volunteers are all trained in Child Safeguarding Policy and procedures and recognise that the welfare of children is everyone's responsibility and that all children and young people have a right to have fun, be safe and be protected from harm.

#### **3 Membership**

- 3.5** Any person who wishes to become a member of the Club must read the guidelines & the constitution before submitting a signed application to the Club and in the case of a child under 18 years of age the application must be submitted by the applicant's parent or guardian. The Club application process should be able to be viewed either online or via a paper format. The membership form must be completed in its entirety or it may be refused. Election to membership shall be determined by the Head coach, but other person(s) authorised by the Executive Officers may make recommendation as to the applicant's acceptability.
- 3.7** The Club may refuse membership only for good and sufficient cause, such as conduct or character likely to bring the Club or the sport into disrepute, or, in the case of a swimmer, being unable to achieve the entry standards as laid down and provided by the Club to the applicant for membership. The Club shall not be



required to give any reasons for the refusal of any application for membership, but if requested should be able to provide a fair and ethical reason.

- 3.8 Once a membership has been agreed that member must abide by all rules and regulations. Before you can swim your fees must be paid and the member must be wearing the club costume and hat, this is compulsory. If either of these are not done you will not be able to swim.

#### 4 Membership and Other Fees

- 4.2 **The Club session fees are in the form of quarterly payments with the fees being due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each quarterly month these being 1<sup>st</sup> January 1<sup>st</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> July & 1<sup>st</sup> October. Annual membership fees are to be paid in full by the 1<sup>st</sup> January.** Any member whose fees are unpaid by the 14<sup>th</sup> January may be suspended by the Club from all session and all Club activities until such payment is made or an arrangement is put in place.

#### 5 Resignation

- 5.1 A member wishing to resign membership of the Club must give to the Club written notice of his/her resignation via post or electronic means two weeks prior, unless agreed by the head coach. A member's resignation shall only take effect when this (Rule 5.1) has been complied with.
- 5.2 A member whose fees are not paid within two weeks of the due date shall be deemed to have resigned from the Club and their membership terminated. Where membership has been terminated in this way the member shall be informed in writing either via post to the last known address or by electronic means.
- 5.3 A member who resigns from the Club or whose membership is terminated shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual Club membership fee refunded and must immediately return any Club or external body's property. (Club championship Cups or shields etc)

#### 6. Expulsion and Other Disciplinary Action

- 6.1 The Head coach & Executive Officers shall have power to expel a member when, in its opinion, it would not be in the interests of the Club for the individual to remain a member.
- 6.2 Upon expulsion the former member shall not be entitled to have any part of the annual Club membership fee or session fees refunded and must return any Club equipment or external body's trophy or trophies held forthwith.
- 6.3 The Club shall comply with club disputes according to the club regulations for handling Internal Club Disputes as may be revised from time to time.
- 6.4 The Head Coach or Executive Officers of the Club (or any person to whom the Executive Officers shall delegate this power) may temporarily suspend or exclude a member from particular training sessions and/or wider Club activities, when in their opinion or following, such action is in the interests of the Club. Where such action is taken the incident or matter will thereafter be dealt with in accordance with the appropriate Judicial Regulations.
- 6.5 Any members of the club found to be posting photos, videos or derogatory statements on social media or any other format, shall be liable for instant dismissal and / or prosecution by the police. Immediate action shall be taken by the head coach or executive officers to protect the member that was targeted. The member should be referred to the welfare officer to discuss any further actions or safeguarding concerns.

#### 18 Acknowledgement

- 18.1 The Members acknowledge that these Rules constitute a legally binding contract to regulate the relationship of the members with each other and the Club.
- 18.2 This constitution must be readily available to all club members. A copy of the [constitution is on the club website at all times](#), or by e-mail request by any member, except when due to technical problems.
- 18.3 The following statement must appear on Club membership forms and is to be signed by the member. It must also be countersigned by the parent, or a person having parental responsibility for the member, if under 18 years of age:

***"I acknowledge receipt of the rules of Merton Pisces Swimming Club and confirm my understanding and acceptance that such rules (as amended from time to time) shall govern my membership of the Club. I further acknowledge and accept the responsibilities of membership upon members as set out in these rules."***

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