



Guidelines on lane sharing between adults and children

Swimming is a physical sport, and like many sports, there is an inherent risk in taking part. Tiverton Swimming Club is committed to ensuring that any risks to participants are kept to an absolute minimum. The ASA recognises that children and adults may train together in the same lane if they are of a like standard and physical size, but additional consideration to child safeguarding must be undertaken by the club.

As TSC has an active Masters (adult) squad, we suggest that training sessions with both adults and children should not be automatically ruled out. However, when lane sharing is planned, coaches are required to conduct a risk assessment, paying particular attention to the mix of swimmers in each lane whilst taking the following factors into consideration.

- Suitability of lane supervision at club sessions involving under 18s
- The ages and sex of the swimmers
- The relative sizes and abilities of the swimmers
- The individual swimmers' lane discipline and precision of strokes
- Any lane etiquette guides, e.g. re overtaking
- The presence of lifeguards
- The width of each training lane
- The number of swimmers in each lane
- Whether the session is open to spectators

Tiverton Swimming Club statement regarding lane sharing between adults and children can be summarised as:

Adult and child swimmers will be asked to train in separate allocated lanes, unless directed by the head coach or coach leading the session. The head coach or coach leading the session may invite swimmers to train in a different lane depending on space, ability to complete the set and ability to maintain the level of swimming required for the squad for the session. If a swimmer is not able to maintain the standard of the lane, they will be asked to move to another lane during the session. Whilst aiming to maintain flexibility for different squads swimming in the pool at the same time, the decision regarding lane sharing is made by the coach during the session at that point in time.

For clarity, Masters swimmers who are training with younger members do not require a DBS check, unless they are also taking part in an eligible volunteer role within the club.