



1 January 2023

Changing Village Policy

This policy is designed to safeguard swimmers. Changing facilities may be shared by BMSS members and the general public.

Separate gender changing rooms

Some of the leisure facilities have separate gender changing rooms. Parents/carers should not enter these changing rooms. This is to protect both the swimmers and the parents. In addition, male or female swimmers should not enter the opposite gender changing rooms.

Changing Villages

Four of the leisure facilities we use do not provide separate gender changing facilities, nor do they identify separate male/female areas for our swimmers to change pre and post-session. Swim England advises that clubs should create simple barriers within the changing villages to separate the genders of school-age children in mixed changing villages. BMSS has devised the following protocol to maintain the safety and well-being of our swimmers within leisure facilities at Westhoughton, Horwich, Farnworth and The Jason Kenny Centre:

Westhoughton	On entering the changing village, male gender swimmers should change using the cubicles on the left side . Female gender swimmers should change using the cubicles on the right side of the changing village.
Horwich	On entering the changing village, male gender swimmers should change using the cubicles on the right side , nearest to the pool. Female gender swimmers should change using the cubicles on the left side of the changing village facing the toilets.
Farnworth	On entering the changing village, male gender swimmers should use the changing cubicles around the right side of the village (turning right on entering the changing village, past the shower cubicles). Female gender swimmers should use the changing cubicles on the left side of the changing village, using the cubicles facing the lockers.
The Jason Kenny Centre	On entering the changing village, male gender swimmers should use the changing cubicles on the far right side and the right side back wall of the changing village. Female gender swimmers should use the changing cubicles on the left side and in the middle of the changing village.



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Swimmers Behaviour

All swimmers are representing BMSS whilst on the premises of all the pool providers, and good and respectful behaviour is expected at all times.

Under no circumstance should male and female swimmers be sharing changing cubicles or changing in adjacent cubicles.

In changing villages, under no circumstances should male or female swimmers enter the opposite genders area outlined in the table above.

As outlined in the **BMSS Code of Conduct for Children**, poor behaviour may result in disciplinary action being taken against the swimmer.

BMSS Official (Spotter)

A BMSS official (spotter) will be present after each session to be a point of contact should swimmers have any concerns. The spotter will also ensure all swimmers are collected after the session unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in advance.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be used by swimmers within the changing village/areas, poolside or within a land training environment to ensure our swimmers' safeguarding. Any swimmers caught using phones or any other image-capturing device will be reported to the centre, and disciplinary action may be taken against the swimmer.

Over 18 Swimmers

Over 18 swimmers are asked to use their own changing area where facilities allow this. It is recognised that this is not always possible and, in line with Swim England guidance, where facilities do not allow this, over 18 swimmers are reminded to change in an appropriate fashion and to be mindful that they are changing with under 18s.