

PENTATHLON GB⁺

SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE SAFEGUARDING IN CHANGING ROOMS

Pentathlon GB recognises that changing rooms can be an area of risk if not managed. Information on how you club, event, facility hirer wants them managed needs to be shared with athletes, parents, coaches and volunteers so everyone knows what is expected. It should not be a surprise.

In some sports the main source of concerns arises from the taking of photos and videos of people using the changing rooms. The photos or videos are taken and shared without permission. It is against the law to take indecent images and / or distribute them and any concerns of this nature will be investigated by Pentathlon GB and shared with the police. To reduce the opportunity to take indecent images Pentathlon GB requests that mobile phones are not used in changing rooms.

Pentathlon GB does not advise that adults supervise changing facilities, as that places them and the children at risk of harm and allegation. Organisations may however place a responsible adult outside of the doors in and out of the changing rooms to allow members to call for assistance if required. Responsible adults may walk through public areas (including village changing areas), particularly if the changing space is shared with members of the public, in order to safeguard members. This is helpful as children have reported incidents of bullying or general behaviour issues between members in the changing rooms.

The following considerations will assist clubs, hubs and event organisers to manage changing rooms. Informing members and parents/ carers and the facilities being used, for example a leisure centre or school will ensure everyone knows what to expect.

- Changing facilities may be shared with other users or for sole use between times.
- Signs on changing room doors of who is using them to be displayed.
- What type of changing facility is being used, ie cubicles, group changing, unisex etc.
- Avoid adults and children and young people changing in the same area
- Adults including parents to avoid being in the changing facility alone with children, unless they are assisting their child to change.
- Check with the leisure centre/ facility hirer on their changing room policy and share your policy / risk assessment with them to avoid confusion.
- No mobile phones to be used in the changing facility to avoid images capturing children in a state of undress being taken. Anyone seen or reported to have used their phone will be reported to the Club Welfare Officer who can decide on the appropriate action. For example, a parent taking a call from their family, may be a one off as it was urgent. A phone being placed under a cubicle door will result in a safeguarding concern being raised.

For further advice please contact safeguarding@pentathlongb.org