



Disability Swimming

Introduction

Exmouth Swimming and Life Saving Society are committed to integrating members of all abilities whenever possible. To this end;

Teaching and coaching swimmers with a disability

ES&LSS subscribes to the view that all learners deserve the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Teaching and coaching swimming is about focusing on a learner's ability. New members into the Society are assessed in all sections to gain entry. Learners with a disability are not excluded from assessments.

Physical, Visual and Intellectual Impairments

Teaching and coaching rely on good communication and understanding. We require that all learners can:

- Cope in a group situation
- Move independently in water
- Process instructions independently [with adjustments for learning styles accounted for]
- Maintain a level of concentration during the session.
- Apply their best effort

Classification

Applicable to the Competitive and Development and Masters sections, classification is the grouping of swimmers to ensure that there is a fair playing field. It is based on an individual swimmer's functional ability. Swimmers who are said to have the same disability may have many individual differences. Swimmers with an eligible impairment can apply for a 'Certificate of Exception' to enable disabled swimmers to participate in competition without being penalised for rule infractions beyond their control. The application form for a Certificate of Exception is available to download from our website.

Learn to Swim section

Following assessment and acceptance, it is important for parents to note that not all conditions come to light at age 5; which is the age we invite swimmers to start. Provided the swimmer is able to cope in our group structure, we will do our best to teach the child to swim. If however, as the child develops it becomes evident that it's not in the best interest of the learner to remain within our lesson structure, we reserve the right to bring this to a parent's attention with a view to helping find and suggesting that alternative provision be made. This may take the form of 1:1 lessons. We are not able to guarantee an offer of 1:1 tuition within a group lesson as we must consider the other swimmers in the session. Where teacher and helper availability allow, we will endeavour to offer extra assistance in the water for any swimmer [of any ability] to support their progression. The stage outcomes criterion to successfully pass each learn to swim stage may be reasonably adjusted at the Head Coaches discretion. The best outcome for learners with disabilities will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

Local Disability Swimming Opportunities

Although we will do our utmost to promote equality and inclusion for all within the Club and will never exclude membership on discriminatory grounds, we do however recognise that there could be occasions when we are unable to cater for someone's specific needs and we may need to refer elsewhere. Exeter and East Devon Sports Association for Disabled, provides weekly sessions on Friday evenings 8-9pm at Exmouth pool, www.parasport.org.uk. We are not part of this organisation.

Next review: April 2025