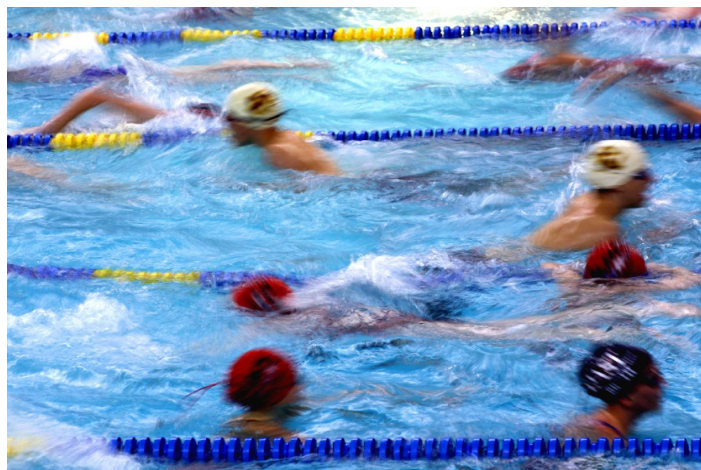


Child Protection Discussion Starter “Tough Coach”

This case study is designed to promote discussion about child protection, and the approach that your club, its members, administrators and volunteers take towards creating a child safe environment. Read the case study, then consider the questions that follow. You should perform this activity in a group.



What would your club do?

The parents of two girls at a swimming club complain about the abusive way the girl's coach yells at the team at every practice. This coach was a female state representative and is well respected and known in the swimming community, with a reputation for being tough, but also for producing good swimmers. The parents who complain had previously agitated to get their girls into the coach's squad.

The swimming club's member protection officer talks to the girls, who say they 'don't mind' when the coach yells at them at the end of the session. The club informs the parents that it will not be proceeding any further with the complaint, and suggests that the girls might want to drop a grade where the coaching style will be 'less pressured'.

Discussion points

- Who is responsible for this situation? The coach? The girls? The club?
- Would a whole club approach make any difference?
- What might have been done to avoid this situation?
- How might the club have better supported the girls, their parents and the coach?
- Would this happen at your club?
- Do you have procedures in place that would prevent this?