

Equity Policy Statement

"Sports Equity is about fairness in sport, equality of access, recognizing inequalities and taking steps to address them. It is about changing the culture and structure of sport to ensure it becomes equally accessible to everyone in society."

- *The Association is committed to treat everyone equally within the context of their activity, regardless of sex, ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, sexual orientation or political persuasion.*
- *The Association will ensure that equity as stated above is incorporated in all aspects of its activities.*
- *The Association is committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their sport in an environment free from threat of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and abuse.*
- *All members have a responsibility to challenge discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.*
- *The Association will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, in accordance with the ASA Code of Ethics, guidelines for internal disputes and judicial laws.*

Equal Opportunity in Swimming

'Equal Opportunity is about celebrating difference and diversity and as such providing a swimming structure that can respond to this in a proactive and positive manner'.

Hampshire County Amateur Swimming Association is totally committed to the principals and practice of equal opportunities across all of its aquatic disciplines, by all its members. In our work with key partners, such as swimmers, clubs, teachers, coaches, officials and administrators, we will advocate our policies make every effort to ensure that all participation has equity at it's core.

Swimming is a 'sport for all'. It can and should be enjoyed and made accessible to everyone and to achieve this:

- The Association is committed to work towards ensuring that swimming is accessible to the many rather than the few.
- The Association recognizes the need to acknowledge the diversity of provision that is required to ensure that all people, regardless of their race, sex/gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, social or economic background can access swimming and develop at a level that is appropriate to them.
- The Association recognizes the need to celebrate differences and diversity of provision as a means of creating entitlement and accessibility to our structures.
- The Association recognizes that equal opportunity is about recognizing that people are different and therefore require different provision.
- The Association recognizes the need to consult widely in order to respond to diversity.

Addressing Equal Opportunities

In addressing equal opportunities, the Association will respond to issues of equity by:

- Recognising that as an organisation we need to adapt and work flexibly in order to respond to the needs of a wide and diverse range of people.
- Take positive action to increase the involvement from under represented groups in all aspects of our organisation, participation, coaching, teaching, officialdom etc.

In doing so the Association supports four key principals as being fundamental to ensuring that everyone can participate in our sport and the achievement of equality of opportunity:

Entitlement: People have a right to participate in and access quality and appropriate experiences within swimming.

Accessibility: It is the responsibility of the HCASA – our teachers, coaches, officials and administrators – to adapt provision to fit the needs of the many.

Inclusion: Wherever and whenever possible, all to access the same quality of provision, and if necessary to use positive action to ensure this:

Integrity: Whatever we do as an Association to change or adopt provision, it must be of equal worth, challenging, relevant and in no way patronising.

Lines of responsibility

The Association will strive to become an organisation that values diversity and in order to achieve this we recognise that there must be clear lines of responsibility between all segments of the organisation.

The Association is committed to encouraging membership from all sectors of the community. To achieve this we undertake to:

- Promote an open and honest culture that values diversity.
- Communicate widely, ensuring that our messages can be understood and appreciated by all.
- Positively encourage the involvement of all people, regardless of their gender, race, disability, age and social background.
- Work to redress the effects of discrimination.
- Change attitudes and working practices to ensure that everyone can feel a valued member of the Association.

Teachers and Coaches.

In our training and development of Teachers and Coaches, we will strive to ensure that they:

- Establish and implement professional and ethical values and practice.
- Promote and apply the principals and practices of equal opportunities
- Promote positive images of people with Special needs.
- Have a commitment to providing entitlement and access to all their professional activities.
- Encourage high expectations and standards of achievement from all they teach
- Involve everyone in meaningful and appropriate activity to ensure a quality experience.
- Help everyone to achieve their full potential.

Officials and Administrators

In our involvement of officials and administrators we will expect them to

- Adopt, promote and practice the values of the Association.
- Ensure that participation can be enjoyed by all.
- Provide meaningful and appropriate experiences, which recognise and value the diversity of the participants.
- Actively encourage the participation and involvement of people from disadvantaged groups of the community.