



Aquatics GB

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION POLICY

Introduction

Aquatics GB is made up of brilliant people. Each of us is unique, whether in terms of our background, personal characteristics, experience, skills or motivations. And we value our people for the differences they bring to the table. These differences - this diversity - is powerful.

Fostering an inclusive culture helps each of us to benefit from a wider range of these different perspectives, experiences and skills. We believe that this creates a happier, more productive working environment for us all.

Aquatics GB is committed to ensuring a working environment that is free from discrimination, victimisation, bullying and harassment, and that everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

This policy does not form part of your contract of employment and we reserve the right to amend or withdraw it at any time.

Scope

This policy applies to anyone working for us. This includes employees, workers, contractors, volunteers, interns and apprentices. The policy also relates to job applicants, and is relevant to all stages of the employment relationship.

The policy accompanies our Anti-harassment and anti-bullying policy and any other diversity, equity and inclusion policies adopted by Aquatics GB

Our commitment to you

We believe that a culture of diversity, equity and inclusion not only benefits Aquatics GB but supports wellbeing and enables our people to work better because they can be themselves and feel that they belong.

We are committed to promoting a working environment based on dignity, trust and respect, and one that is free from discrimination, harassment, bullying or victimisation.

The objectives below provide insight to how the aim will be achieved:

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Aquatics GB is the trading name of British Swimming Ltd.

- By providing clear definition of what Aquatics GB regards as acceptable and non-acceptable behaviour at work.
- Through highlighting the responsibilities of those to whom the policy applies.
- By bringing attention to Aquatics GB's disciplinary policy and procedure for breach of this policy.
- By signposting key individuals and departments, who will become primarily responsible for the policy, its implementations, monitoring and review.

What we expect from you

We expect you, and every one of our people, to take personal responsibility for observing, upholding, promoting and applying this policy. Our culture is made in the day-to-day working interactions between us so creating the right environment is a responsibility that we all share.

Cultivating this culture does not happen by accident but requires ongoing commitment and nurturing. The reality is that we live in a world where areas of difference (whether gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity or others) often translate to biases, challenges and barriers that may not be faced by others. And the more areas of difference a person brings, the more this effect can be compounded. In this way, the experiences of a black woman with a disability may be very different to the experiences of a black woman without a disability and also very different from the experiences of a white woman. This way of looking at diversity and inclusion is known as "intersectionality".

We expect you to treat your colleagues and third parties (including customers, suppliers, contractors, agency staff and consultants) fairly and with dignity, trust and respect. Sometimes, this may mean allowing for different views and viewpoints and making space for others to contribute.

By embedding such values and constructively challenging inappropriate comments or ways of working, you can help us achieve and maintain a truly inclusive workplace culture.

Any dealings that you have with colleagues or third parties must be free from any form of discrimination, harassment, victimisation or bullying.

If any of our people is found to have committed, authorised or condoned an act of discrimination, harassment, victimisation or bullying, we will take action against them including (for those to whom it applies) under our Disciplinary policy and procedure.

You should be aware that you can be personally liable for discrimination and harassment.

Discrimination

The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination because of certain protected characteristics. These are:

- disability;
- sex;
- gender reassignment;

- marital or civil partnership status;
- race;
- religion or belief;
- sexual orientation;
- age; and
- pregnancy or maternity.

Discrimination can be intentional or unintentional and may occur directly, indirectly, by association, or by perception.

There are also two specific types of discrimination that apply only to disability: "discrimination arising from disability" and "failing to make reasonable adjustments"

Discrimination is not always obvious and can be subtle and unconscious. This stems from a person's general assumptions about the abilities, interests and characteristics of a particular group that influences how they treat those people (known as "unconscious bias"). Such assumptions or prejudices may cause them to apply requirements or conditions that put those in particular groups at a disadvantage. Examples include:

- steering employees into particular types of work on the basis of stereotypical assumptions without considering the particular attributes and abilities of individuals;
- recruiting or promoting individuals into particular roles because of assumptions about the reactions or preferences of other employees or clients; and
- using different standards for different groups of employees to judge performance.

Different types of discrimination under the Equality Act 2010

- **Direct discrimination:** Treating someone less favourably because of a protected characteristic compared with someone who does not have that characteristic (for example choosing not to recruit someone because they are disabled and you think they "wouldn't fit in" to the team).
- **Indirect discrimination:** Where a policy, procedure or way of working that applies to everyone puts people with a particular protected characteristic at a disadvantage, compared with people who do not have that characteristic, unless there is a good reason to justify it. An example is introducing a requirement for all staff to finish work at 6pm. It is arguable that female employees, who statistically bear the larger share of childcare responsibilities could be at a disadvantage if the new working hours prevent them from collecting their children from school or nursery.
- **Associative discrimination:** Treating someone less favourably because they are associated with someone who has a protected characteristic, for example because their partner is transgender.
- **Discrimination by perception:** Treating someone less favourably because you perceive them to have a protected characteristic even if they do not, for example choosing not to promote someone because you mistakenly perceive them to be gay.
- **Discrimination arising from disability:** Treating someone unfavourably because of something connected with that person's disability and where such treatment is not justified. Examples include:
 - dismissing or failing to pay a bonus to someone because of their disability-related absence; or

- disciplining someone for losing their temper where such loss of temper was out of character and was due to severe pain caused by them having cancer.
- **Failing to make reasonable adjustments:** Employers are legally obliged to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that aspects of employment, or the employer's premises, do not put a disabled person at a substantial disadvantage. Failing to comply with this duty is unlawful. Examples of reasonable adjustments might include:
 - allocating some of the disabled person's duties to a colleague;
 - changing their working hours or place of work;
 - adjusting procedures for assessing job candidates; and
 - modifying disciplinary and grievance procedures.

Harassment and sexual harassment

Harassment is unwanted conduct related to a protected characteristic that has the purpose or effect of:

- violating someone else's dignity; or
- creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for someone else.

Sexual harassment is:

- conduct of a sexual nature that has the purpose or effect of violating someone's dignity, or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment; and
- less favourable treatment related to sex or gender reassignment that occurs because of a rejection of, or submission to, sexual conduct.

You should refer to our Anti-harassment and anti-bullying policy for further information on our procedure for reporting harassment.

Victimisation

Victimisation is treating another person detrimentally either because that person has made a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or because they have supported someone else who has made such a complaint, for example by giving a witness statement that supports the allegations.

Bullying

There is no legal definition of bullying. However, we regard it as conduct that is offensive, intimidating, malicious, insulting, or an abuse or misuse of power, and usually persistent, that has the effect of undermining, humiliating or injuring the recipient.

Bullying can be physical, verbal or non-verbal conduct. It is not necessarily face to face and can be done by email, phone calls, online or on social media. Bullying may occur at work or outside work.

If the bullying relates to a person's protected characteristic, it may also constitute harassment and, therefore, will be unlawful (see Harassment).

You should refer to our Anti-harassment and anti-bullying policy for further information on our procedure for reporting bullying.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group

We are proud to have an Inclusion Advisory Group. The group who can put forward ideas and suggestions for ways Aquatics GB can be more diverse and inclusive.

Equal Opportunities in Employment

Aquatics GB will strive to avoid unlawful discrimination in all aspects of employment, including recruitment, promotion, opportunities for training, pay and benefits, discipline and selection for redundancy.

Person and job specifications will be limited to those requirements that are necessary for the effective performance of the job. Candidates for employment or promotion opportunities will be assessed objectively against the requirements for the job, taking account of any reasonable adjustments that may be required for candidates with a disability. Disability and personal or home commitments will not form the basis of employment decisions except where strictly necessary.

Aquatics GB will continue to monitor the diversity of the existing workforce and of applicants for jobs, and the number of people with disabilities within these groups, continually considering any appropriate action to address any concerns that may be identified as a result of the monitoring process.

Career development

Any decision you make relating to a person's promotion or career development must be free from discrimination.

We ensure that selection criteria and processes for recruitment and promotion are reviewed on a regular basis so that there is no discriminatory impact on a certain group.

Exceptions

Positive Action

Positive action can be taken when:

- People who share a protected characteristic suffer a disadvantage connected to that characteristic
- People who share a protected characteristic have needs that are different from the needs of people who do not share it, or

- Participation in an activity by people who share a protected characteristic is disproportionately low.

The actions that employers may take include, but are not limited to:

- Targeting training at specific disadvantaged groups
- Mentoring
- Work shadowing
- Open days which are held exclusively for the targeted group

Disability Inclusion

Talking about disability

We understand that some people find it hard to discuss their disabilities and that disability can be invisible.

Psychological safety, where people feel able to speak up about their experiences without fear of negative consequences, is paramount to ensuring disability inclusion.

However, this is only possible if we treat people with dignity, trust and respect and we expect everyone to uphold these values.

We do not tolerate ableist language in Aquatics GB. Ableist language is language that is negative, inappropriate or offensive towards people with a disability and may take the form of jokes or "banter". If you adopt such language, we will take action against you including (for those to whom it applies) under our Disciplinary policy and procedure.

Reasonable adjustments

If you have a disability, you do not have to tell us. However, we would encourage you to let us know so that we can support you, for example by making reasonable adjustments to our premises or to aspects of your role, or to our working practices.

If you are experiencing difficulties at work because of your disability, please contact your line manager and/or the People Department to discuss potential reasonable adjustments that may alleviate or minimise such difficulties. We may need to discuss your needs with you and your medical adviser to help us get the right support in place.

For colleagues who are returning from long-term disability-related absence, we have a return-to-work support programme in place.

Disability and recruitment

The recruiting manager in conjunction with the People Department will consider disability in advance of a recruitment campaign so that advertising, application forms and assessments, arrangements for interviews, job descriptions and employee specifications, and selection criteria are appropriate and as inclusive as possible.

We will ask applicants at the outset if they require any reasonable adjustments to be made to the recruitment process.

If you are involved in the interview process, you must not ask job applicants about their health or disability except with prior approval from the People Department. Such approval is given only in exceptional circumstances and where there are specific legal grounds for doing so.

Positive Action and Recruitment

The Equality Act extends the use of positive action in the workplace so that public bodies will be able to address underrepresentation when, for example, recruiting staff. Where two candidates are equally qualified, underrepresentation could (but does not have to) be used to decide between them.

As a Committed member of the Disability Confident Scheme, Aquatics GB has undertaken to:

- Guarantee job interviews to applicants with a disability who meet the minimum criteria
- Consult disabled employees regularly
- Support employees to the fullest extent if they acquire a disability
- Ensure that all employees have a level of awareness of disability issues to make the commitment work
- Review the commitments annually and adjust as appropriate

To help address the underrepresentation of ethnically diverse staff in the workforce, Aquatics GB has similarly committed to guaranteeing a job interview to any applicant from an ethnically diverse background who meets the minimum criteria for a role.

The 'tiebreaker' Provision

If an employer reasonably thinks that a group of people with a protected characteristic are underrepresented in the workforce, or suffer a disadvantage connected to that protected characteristic, and they are choosing between two or more candidates of equal merit, then they may be able lawfully to choose the individual with the protected characteristic provided this is proportionate.

Support

If you have a disability, or you care for someone with a disability, and need emotional support or help with practical issues, please contact our employee assistance programme (EAP) for free, confidential advice, details can be found in the Wellbeing section of the Allquatics Hub.

Training

All employees must attend diversity, equity and inclusion training.

We expect all our people to proactively support our diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives by attending any events and workshops organised to educate themselves on the challenges faced by others and how to help alleviate these in the workplace.

Data Protection

Aquatics GB possesses personal data collected in accordance with its data protection policy.

For any advice or assistance with this policy please refer to the People Department.

This policy will be reviewed biennially. Any amendment to it will be notified to employees by the People Department.

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