

## Swimming Pools FAQ's

### **1. Are stainless steel pools a viable option nowadays?**

Stainless steel pools are discussed on pages 66 to 68 of the Swimming pool design guidance note including the key issues relating to the use of a steel pool compared against a reinforced concrete pool. A copy of the design guide can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

### **2. Do you prefer a particular changing room layout for Swimming Pools e.g. Village, single sex etc?**

The choice of changing room layout is dependent upon a range of project specific factors including customer base, school use and management style. This is covered in section 4.5 of the Swimming Pool design guide which compares the pros and cons of both options.

### **3. Do you recommend the use of Drowning Detection systems, and if so what is the best one to use?**

The provision of a drowning detection system is discussed in the Sport England Briefing Note "Drowning Detection Systems Briefing Note 2011". This provides advice on the issues that should be considered and comments on various existing technologies. Sport England does not recommend a specific product, or whether a system should be used in any situation. This should be a project specific consideration, and risk assessment should be undertaken in respect of current legislation and standards e.g. HSG 179 and BS EN 15288 Parts 1 and 2.

### **4. Do you recommend the use of Pool Covers?**

Heated swimming pools use high levels of energy and the regular use of pool covers can reduce energy consumption. Pool covers should be considered as part of an energy strategy and carbon reduction measures during the design stage of a project. It is important however that the design and product selection is based upon ease of use and resistance to wear and tear in order to maximise their life and regular use.

### **5. For sanitary provision in swimming pools we have always followed BS6465:Part 1:1984 but Sport England are referring to the 2006 revision and this is resulting in more toilets. Can we continue to use the older standard as it is still referred to in the Building Regulations?**

This issue should be considered in the context of discussion with the Building Control Officer in achieving Building Regulations approval for a particular project. Appendix 3 in the Swimming Pool design guidance note includes an example changing room calculation with notes on some anomalies in BS6465:Part 1: 2006.

### **6. Sport England's guidance shows various means for access to a pool for disabled people - can we use alternative means of access?**

Not all disabled people have the same needs and a range of provision is generally recommended for public swimming pool facilities. Refer to Sport England's design guidance note Accessible Sport Facilities and the Affordable Community Swimming Pool documents, which can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/accessible\\_sports\\_facilities.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/accessible_sports_facilities.aspx)

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

### **7. Can you confirm Sport England's requirements for competitive swimming pools?**

Sport England's provides guidance on competitive swimming pool design within the Swimming Pools design guide. This is based on the Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) and Federation Internationale de Natation (FINA) requirements.

### **8. How are the number of family changing spaces calculated in Swimming pools design guidance note Appendix 3, option?**

Family changing cubicle provision should be calculated based upon Table 10 of the Accessible Sports Facilities design guidance note.

## Swimming Pools FAQ's continued

### **9. We are intending to use polished stainless steel in our swimming pool hall, does Sport England recommend any particular finishes?**

The use of stainless steel in a swimming pool environment is an issue requiring very careful consideration due to the risks of corrosion. This is discussed in the Swimming Pools design guidance note. Specialist advice should be sought on component design, suitable grades and finishes from trade associations e.g. the British Stainless Steel Association (BSSA)

### **10. We are providing a learner pool alongside our community pool but are interested in how we might maximise its use as a stand alone pool and as a support pool for competition?**

For guidance on learner pool provision refer to the Swimming Pools design guidance note and Affordable Community Swimming Pool documentation both of which can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

### **11. We would like to use a free-board pool with a scum channel, rather than a deck level pool. Is this acceptable to Sport England and what are the drawbacks of using them?**

Sport England prefer all new swimming pools to be deck level for a number of reasons. These include general accessibility and improved water filtration. The issues are discussed in the Swimming Pools and Accessible Sports Facility design guidance notes, which can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/accessible\\_sports\\_facilities.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/accessible_sports_facilities.aspx)

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

### **12. What are Sport England's recommended ratios of areas for building/water for changing/plant etc?**

The ratio of building/water areas for changing and plant will ultimately depend upon the specific facility design criteria being adopted e.g. type of filtration system, changing room requirements etc. Ratios for Sport England's Affordable Community Swimming Pool model are available in Appendix 6 of the document, which can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools/affordable\\_swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools/affordable_swimming_pools.aspx)

### **13. Do 'village changing' layouts take up less space than 'single sex changing'?**

Potentially village changing may actually require more space than single sex changing.

For example: village changing require single cubicles of 1.1 x 1m per person and a circulation zone of 1.5m between the cubicles. Single sex changing requires a similar circulation zone but is measured between benches. Single sex bench length per person also occupies less space than the equivalent village changing room.

However a single sex changing facility will require duplication of changing space to cater for both sexes and is less flexible when there are more users of one sex than the other. This may require the provision of separate flexible buffer changing.

Whether a village changing layout actually takes up more or less space will depend upon the design parameters of the specific facility, with particular emphasis on the arrangement of team/group changing and toilets.

Example layouts for both village changing and single sex changing with approximately the same floor area are shown in the Swimming Pools design guidance note. Further information is also available within the Accessible Sports Facilities design guidance note. These documents can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/accessible\\_sports\\_facilities.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/accessible_sports_facilities.aspx)

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

## Swimming Pools FAQ's continued

### 14. Why is so much sanitary accommodation required in the changing areas?

The layouts indicated within Sport England's guidance assume that the operator will wish to:

- Maximise the use of the pool.
- Cater for peak periods of use.
- Cater for all members of the community.

The layouts also reflect the recommendations/requirements of:

- The Pool Water Treatment Advisory Group (PWTAG) - that well positioned and adequate toilet provision helps ensure good water quality in the pool.
- British Standard BS 6465: Part 1: 2006 (see FAQ 5 above).
- Adequate sanitary provision for people with a range of disabilities, covered within the Sport England Accessible Sports Facilities design guidance note & British Standard BS 8300: 2009.
- Building Regulations Approved Document G.

### 15. How should the spectator capacity be calculated for a swimming pool?

Sport England provide guidance on spectator seating in Section 4.8 of the Swimming Pools design guidance note which can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) have published minimum recommended swimming pool spectator seating capacities for competitive swimming, which is available from here:

<http://www.swimming.org/go/library/category/765>.

### 16. Where is the best location for a platform lift for wheelchair users?

Platform lifts for use by wheelchair users to gain access into a swimming pool are best located adjacent to shallow water and a pool surround of adequate width to avoid obstructing circulation. Refer to the diagram on page 27 of the Swimming Pools design guidance note. Example layouts are also shown within the Affordable Community Swimming Pool document. Both documents can be downloaded from here:

[http://www.sportengland.org/facilities\\_planning/design\\_and\\_cost\\_guidance/swimming\\_pools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/facilities_planning/design_and_cost_guidance/swimming_pools.aspx)

### 17. Must there be a contrasting line across the pool tank at the 1.35m depth point?

British Standard BS EN 15288: Part 1 2008 Safety Requirements for Design, clause 5.6.3 requires that at the edge of a non-swimming area, where the water depth changes to more than 1.35 m, this is marked on the pool basin floor by a conspicuous line. Changes of inclination within the non-swimming area should also be marked by a contrasting colour and/or a different tactile quality. Changes in Sport England's Swimming Pools design guidance has been produced to reflect this requirement.