

Making Baby Swimming Lessons Covid-19 Safe- The Challenges

Alex Blackwell

Group Head of Pools & Facilities, Water Babies Ltd

Alex is currently the Group Head of Facilities and Operational Management at Water Babies and has worked in the leisure industry throughout his career. In the past he worked for the RLSS UK as the 'Head of Vocational Qualifications' and was the lead author for many training manuals including 'The Lifeguard' as well as managing the development of the Pool Extraction Board (PXB). Whilst at the RLSS UK, Alex also supported the development of leisure industry guidance and had input into PAS 520 and the British and European swimming pool safety guidance 'BS EN 15288'. Before this role Alex was the Group Lifeguarding Manager for a large leisure operator. Alex continues to support the RLSS UK as their Lifeguard Advisor.

Hannah Smith

Group Associate Director – Aquatics, Pools & Facilities and Training, Water Babies Ltd

Hannah joined Water Babies as Head of Aquatics in 2012 and was later promoted to the role of Group Associate Director, overseeing the Aquatics, Pools & Facilities and Training Departments. Hannah has worked in the UK sport and leisure industry for over 25 years in a range of leisure operations and sports development roles including working for Swim England and UK Coaching. As well as leading the development of the worldwide teaching programme for Water Babies, Hannah has co-written and developed a Level 3 qualification with Swim England and consulted on the PAS 520 British Standards Specification. Outside of work, Hannah is an International Referee for Marathon Swimming and has represented Great Britain and Europe as an International Technical Official at the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Olympic Games

Presentation Abstract

A review of how specialist swimming lesson provider, Water Babies, utilised the government legislation alongside guidance from Swim England and PWTAG during the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure their lessons were Covid-friendly. This session will cover the processes and outline Health & Safety procedures developed, including a Covid-19 Facility Checklist, specific Risk Assessment documentation and Pool Safety Operating Procedures. We will also touch on how the organisation adapted its teaching programme in response to the pandemic, as well as the challenges faced in implementing the new systems and procedures effectively across both the home country and four international territories.