



MINNESOTA
SWIMMING



Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)

Presentation for Minnesota Swimming

May 29, 2019 and June 4, 2019

MISSION: To serve athletes and the swimming community by providing great experiences in and out of the water.

VISION: To lead youth sports in participation, opportunity, performance, & service.

CORE VALUES: Integrity. Sportsmanship. Excellence. Fun.



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What is MAAPP and where did it come from?

- MAAPP came out of a mandate by Congress to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. The mandate was reduce risk areas for abuse in youth sports. The risk areas addressed by the policy are:
 - One-on-One Interactions
 - Social Media and Electronic Communications
 - Travel
 - Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
 - Massages and Rubdowns

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Who needs to implement MAAPP?

- MAAPP needs to be implemented by all sports with a National Governing Body (NGB) – basically all Olympic sports. It is not unique to USA Swimming or Minnesota Swimming. USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs are required to implement this Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy in full.

When does MAAPP need to be implemented by?

- MAAPP needs to be implemented by June 23, 2019, and acknowledged annually thereafter.

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Who needs to acknowledge and follow MAAPP?

- All Applicable Adults must agree to follow MAAPP requirements. Applicable Adults are:
 - All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members (aged 18 and over)
 - Participating non-members (e.g. meet marshals, computer operators, timers, announcers)
 - LSC and club adult staff and board members
 - Any other adult authorized to have **regular contact with or authority over minor athletes**

What is required to show compliance with MAAPP?

- Written acknowledgment by all adult athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of member clubs and LSCs is required annually.

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How does a club obtain written agreement?

- ***To meet the June 23rd deadline:*** Send an email to all adult club members, including adult athletes, with the full MAAPP policy attached. Ask them to read it and acknowledge that they agree to follow MAAPP by responding to the email. The club must retain these email responses as proof of “written” acknowledgement for a period of one year.
- ***For future:*** Incorporate agreement to MAAPP in your annual registration process similar to how you have your members acknowledge your team’s code of conduct and other policies. This must be done annually and the agreement to MAAPP must be retained by the club for a period of one year.
- Sample policy acknowledgement language is shown on the next slide.

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Sample Policy Acknowledgement Language

I acknowledge that I have received, read and understood [Insert Policy Name] and/or that they have been explained to me, or my family. I further acknowledge and understand that agreeing to comply with the contents of this policy is a condition of my membership in [Insert Club Name] and USA Swimming.

Members Signature: _____

Date ____/____/____

Repeat this acknowledgement for EACH policy. This could also be a series of checkboxes on an electronic form, but something that draws the members attention to EACH individual policy. As a best practice, your code of conduct should also be acknowledged in writing for athletes, parents and coaches.

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What about meet volunteers?

- Volunteers (non-member participants) such as safety marshals, lane timers, computer operators, and announcers, will need to abide by MAAPP while volunteering at a meet or other team event.
- They do **NOT** need take APT, have a background check or become members of USA Swimming.
- They **will** need to acknowledge and abide by MAAPP while they are participating. The acknowledgement may be covered if they have previously responded to the club as in the case of a parent member of the club. For other non-member participants (i.e. a grandparent that is not a member of the club but helping as a lane timer), they will need to agree to follow MAAPP while they are volunteering.

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What about athletes who are 18 or older?

- Adult athletes who are 18 or older will need to acknowledge MAAPP.
- They **will** need to take Athlete Protection Training (APT). The training is free and on the LEARN platform of USA Swimming. It is called “Athlete Protection Training”. You will need to enter your name and birth date to receive credit for the trainings.
- Do **NOT** take the “free Safe Sport training for minor athletes”. It will not count.
- Continue to be an amazing teammate and friend to those under 18 on your club. MAAPP does **NOT** mean that you can no longer text or talk with your friends that are under 18. The **ONLY** time where MAAPP will require a change in your behavior is **IF** you have authority over an athlete under age 18 (i.e. you are a coach to that minor athlete). In that case, you must abide by MAAPP in your interactions with that minor athlete.

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Questions?

Contact: SafeSport@MNSwim.org

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