



SARASOTA SWIM ACADEMY - ATHLETE Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Policies

The SRQ Philosophy

The use of drugs, alcoholic beverages and tobacco products poses a risk to the health and safety of young people. In addition to this risk, the possession or use of drugs or alcoholic beverages can have serious legal consequences for youth. The Sarasota Swim Academy Team is a high quality, competitive youth swimming organization committed to excellence at all levels. The club will strive to instill in its swimmers a commitment to abstain from the illegal use of drugs and alcoholic beverages and the use of tobacco products. The club will maintain a wholesome and safe environment in which the swimmers can develop their athletic potential and grow into mature young adults. To these ends, the club has adopted the following policies:

The Team Rules Regarding Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco

1. A swimmer shall not engage in any behavior involving the illegal use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or controlled substances, which tend to bring discredit to the swimmer or the Sarasota Swim Academy Team or knowingly remain in the presence of those engaged in such behavior(s). This prohibition shall apply at all times.
2. A swimmer shall not possess, use, or be under the influence of an alcoholic beverage while at the Aquatic Center or during a team event.
3. A swimmer shall not possess or use a controlled substance on the Aquatic Center premises unless it has been prescribed for the swimmer by a physician and is in the original container with the prescription label attached. A "controlled substance" is any drug for which a prescription is required.
4. A swimmer shall not use, possess, be under the influence of, or distribute to another person any drug paraphernalia or any illegal drug. "Drug paraphernalia" means any device designed or used for the purpose of introducing a drug into the body, including, for example, rolling papers, bongs and crack pipes. "Illegal" drug means any drug, which is illegal under the laws of the State of Florida and any drug or substance, which is banned, by USA Swimming, the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the International Olympic Committee, or the World Anti-Doping Agency. Illegal drugs include, for example, marijuana, cocaine and steroids. This prohibition shall apply at all times.

5. If it is discovered that a swimmer is in possession of, using, or distributing illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcoholic beverages or tobacco, a parent or the legal guardian of the swimmer will be notified.

6. A “team event” includes any swim meet, travel trip, event or activity in which the swimmer participates as a member of the Sarasota Swim Academy. “Aquatic Center” includes any facility owned, leased or used by the Sarasota Swim Academy Team for a meet, practice or any other club sponsored event or activity.

Penalties/Consequences for Violations of the Team Rules

If the head coach determines that a swimmer has or may have violated a Team Rule, the head coach will determine the penalty/consequence for the violation after consultation with the swimmer’s coach and parent or legal guardian. The penalty or consequences for a violation of the Team Rules will be at the discretion of the head coach. The penalties or consequences may include, but are not limited to one or more of the following.

- a. Counseling by the coach or designee;
- b. Community Service;
- c. Restriction from team trips and/or swim meets;
- d. Loss of privileges
- e. Probation;
- f. Suspension; or
- g. Dismissal from the club.

2. If a swimmer is suspended from the club, there will be no refund or abatement of dues for the period of suspension. Fee collection will terminate if it is decided that the athlete will no longer be allowed, at any time, to participate in programming offered by the Sarasota Swim Academy. However, the parent or guardian will be liable for the dues incurred up to the effective date of the dismissal.

Helping Swimmers is our First Priority

If a swimmer is concerned about his own involvement in drugs or alcohol or that of another swimmer, the swimmer is encouraged to talk confidentially with a coach. A swimmer who voluntarily discloses to a coach his involvement with drugs and alcohol will not be charged with a violation of the Team Rules as a result of such disclosure. The swimmer will be referred to substance abuse counseling or treatment at his/her own cost.

SRQ recognizes the need for sensitivity in dealing with these matters and will make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is upheld and that the privacy of those involved will be maintained and respected.

SRQ further recognizes that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children with regard to the use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco products and that parents are

primarily responsible for their children's behavior in these and all other matters. It is MAC's view however that any behavior that tends to bring discredit to the club is a legitimate cause of concern and falls within the purview of club review.

Drug & Alcohol Education will be Provided

From time to time, SRQ will sponsor programs designed to educate the swimmers and coaching staff about the dangers of drugs, alcohol and tobacco products and to help swimmers resist peer pressure to use drugs, alcohol or tobacco products.