



Greater Tampa Swim Association Coaches Code of Conduct & Ethics

These criteria are predicated on the premise that Professionalism is based on the concept of credentials that demonstrate the most current training, and behavior that demonstrates our concern for the well-being of our members and fellow coaches.

PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT:

The conduct and ethical behavior of a professional is determined by the degree of respect with which he/she interacts with the public that he/she serves. This public consists of both client and peer. The intent of the following code is to define the parameters of that interaction, and to provide for adherence to the following components.

1. Compliance with this code, as with all law in an open society, depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily, upon reinforcement by peer and public opinion, and finally, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary proceedings. The code does not exhaust the moral and ethical considerations that should inform a GTSA professional swim coach, for no worthwhile human activity can be completely defined by rules. This simply provides a framework for the ethical coaching of the sport of swimming.
2. A coach member of GTSA shall not abuse alcohol in the presence of athletes. A coach member of GTSA shall not use illegal or recreational drugs. A legal conviction for possession or sale of any illegal substance shall be an automatic violation of this rule.
3. All professional communications shall be conducted in an honest, open manner consistent with the best interests of the sport and the profession. Integrity is a basic part of coaching, whether financially or in dealing with swimming events and entries. A member is accurate at all times to the best of their knowledge.

COACH TO ATHLETE:

1. A coach member of GTSA will always make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete.
2. A coach member of GTSA shall not engage in sexual relations with any minor.
3. Sexual misconduct consists of any behavior that utilizes the influence of the coaching position to encourage inappropriate intimacy between coach and athlete.
4. Coaches of college-aged athletes shall not engage in sexual relations with athletes that they coach, even of legal age.

COACH TO COMMUNITY:

1. Any legal felony conviction will constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE OF ETHICS:

1. A letter of reminder of ethical conduct to the coach
2. A letter of reprimand directly to the offending coach
3. A letter of reprimand to the offending coach, with copies to the Aquatic Director
4. A letter as above, with additional copies to the LSC Chair in the cases of USA Swimming Coaching, or similar body in other situations.
5. Temporary suspension
6. Suspension