



In addition to the development of our swimmers and enjoyment of the sport of swimming, the safety and protection of our swimmers is central to our mission as a community swim club. MRA adheres to USA Swimming's SafeSport Program as a means to help protect its participants from physical abuse, sexual abuse and other types of misconduct, including emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. To help prevent abuse or misconduct from occurring in our locker rooms, MRA has adopted the following locker room policy. This policy is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms.

## **Locker Room Locations**

At Moses Lake High School, the locker rooms are located through the glass double-doors near the shallow end of the pool. At the Surf 'N' Slide Aquatic center, they are located in the main building on the north side of the zero-depth pool.

Our swim team will also travel to swim at away meets, and those locker rooms, rest rooms and shower facilities will vary from location to location. At swim meet locations for which you are unfamiliar, parents should plan to have extra time and some flexibility in making arrangements for your child to dress, undress and shower if desired.

## **Locker Room Monitoring**

While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make some swimmers uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion. Therefore, we will conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before swimmers arrive each evening. MRA has staggered practice times each evening, with different groups departing at different times. It is not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas during a practice session. While we do not post a coach and/or monitor inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas at all times, we will make occasional sweeps of these areas. Please be aware that we are sharing the locker room with others who may be using the facilities at Moses Lake High School.

During practice, Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when a swimmer goes to the locker room or changing area during practice, and if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the swimmer's whereabouts.

## **Parents in Locker Rooms**

Except for swimmers at the younger age groups, 8 and under, we discourage parents from entering locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. If a swimmer needs assistance getting changed, if the swimmer is or may be injured, or a swimmer's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach know beforehand that he or she will be helping the swimmer. Naturally, with our youngest age group it is necessary for parents to assist the swimmer getting dressed. In circumstances where parents are permitted in the locker room, coaches are permitted to ask that the parents are in the locker room for as brief a time period as possible, so that other swimmers are not uncomfortable by their presence.

## **Mixed Gender Team**

Our team consists of both male and female swimmers. It is important that the privacy rights of all of our athletes are given consideration and appropriate arrangements made. The Moses Lake High School Pool as well as the Surf 'N' Slide Aquatic Center have separate locker rooms for the male and female swimmers to dress/undress and then convene in a single group on the pool deck. If you have a very young swimmer (6 and under), of the opposite sex of the parent attending practice and you are not comfortable having your swimmer go in the locker room alone, we ask that you use the locker room appropriate for the parent, and you make every effort to help your swimmer change quickly, and away from the other swimmers who are of the opposite sex. You may also ask a coach to sweep the locker room prior to your swimmer entering, if you are of the opposite sex and cannot go into the locker room with your swimmer.

## **Cell Phones and Other Mobile Recording Devices**

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras, are not permitted to be used in the locker rooms. If phones or other mobile devices must be used, they should be taken outside of the locker room. The use of these devices increases the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room or other changing areas:

***Article 305.3** Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.*

## **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

Manta Ray Aquatics Swim Team prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Swimming SafeSport Handbook. Participants, employees or volunteers in MRA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these locker room policies, or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Swimming SafeSport Policies.

**Violations of this policy may range from being sent home from practice, to dismissal from the team. If severe violations occur involving alleged abuse, the appropriate authorities will be notified immediately, and the people involved in the allegation will not be permitted to be involved in the program until an investigation is completed.**

For reports of any actual or suspected violations, please talk to a coach or member of the Board of Directors immediately. Or you may contact USA Swimming directly via their online form, or you may email/call USA Swimming Director of Safe Sport Susan Woessner [swoessner@usaswimming.org](mailto:swoessner@usaswimming.org) 719 866-3589 or 719 332-0184.

This may be done anonymously.

To review the full USA Swimming Safe Sport Handbook, please visit [www.usaswimming.org/protect](http://www.usaswimming.org/protect)

We are committed to the safety and well being of our swimmers.