

USA Swimming announced an enhanced set of Safe Sport policies on April 29, 2019, collectively called the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy](#) (MAAPP). The changes stem from requirements imposed on USA Swimming by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport through the USOC. These changes are requirements for membership in USA Swimming and must be implemented by June 23, 2019 by each club and LSC.

Attached links below you will find the full policy as created by USA Swimming. We ask that all families read and discuss these policies with their athletes. While most of the items covered in this new policy are already a part of the St Charles Swim Team day to day practices, there are a few items we would like to paraphrase and highlight that are more significant changes:

- 1. Absent an emergency circumstance, coaches can not directly communicate electronically with a single athlete unless the parent/legal guardian is copied on the communication. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME:** This is different from common practices. Under this policy, athletes may send an electronic communication (text, email) to an adult member (coach, official, etc.). However, coaches cannot and will not reply to any electronic communications from an athlete unless the parent/legal guardian has been included in the initial communication by the athlete. In the simplest of terms, coaches will only reply to the text of an athlete if the athlete has also copied their parent. If the parent isn't on the text message, there will be no reply.
- 2. When the coach communicates with a group or the team electronically, they must copy another adult. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME:** Coaches can send a group (2 or more athletes) communication (email, text) to swimmers provided another adult (coach) is also on the communication.
- 3. Electronic communications between an applicable adult (coach) and an athlete may only be sent between the hours of 8:00am and 8:00pm, unless emergency circumstances exist or during competition travel. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME:** This is straight forward, SCST cannot have any electronic communication with athletes after 8:00pm and before 8:00am unless at a travel meet or an emergency. SCST can and most likely will communicate electronically with parents outside of the allowed 8:00am-8:00pm window for athletes. Nearly all our communication during that time period will be via email. To make this possible and comply with the MAAPP, we ask that all families not include/delete an athlete email address as one of their account emails (primary or otherwise). To check this, login to your account and, select My Account, and see if an athlete email address is listed as your Login, Email 1, Email 2, or Email 3. If so, please delete it. If not, you have nothing you need to worry about editing.
- 4. Written permission must be given by the parent/legal guardian of a Minor Athlete (under 18) to share a hotel room/lodging with an Adult Athlete (18 and over) for each instance for the minor to share a hotel room/lodging with said adult. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME:** If your swimmer is a minor and roommates with a teammate that is 18 or older at a travel meet, you will receive a Travel Waiver that we will ask you to sign giving permission for the 18-year-old to be their roommate.
- 5. All athlete members 18 years of age and older are required to complete the Athlete Protection Training (APT) course prior to June 23, 2019 and each subsequent each year. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME:** This is a free, online course thru USA Swimming that coaches complete each year. If you have a question regarding APT, please contact the SCST Office.

We are going to have two (2) steps in educating and implementing this policy into our swim program.

1. Communicate the information to our membership thru registration.
2. As mandated by USA Swimming and the USOC, all USA Swimming members must acknowledge they have received, read, discussed, and will adhere to this policy. To accomplish this for our swim team, we have added this to our required registration. The declaration of "Yes" will serve as confirmation that the general membership has received, read, discussed, and acknowledge this program and that we are following this policy.

Links to certain FAQs (Educational Documents) can be found below. The MAAP policy can also be found on the [Safe Sport](#) page of the USA Swimming Website.

- [Applicable Adults](#)
- [One-On-One Interactions](#)
- [Social Media & Electronic Communications](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Locker Rooms & Changing Areas](#)
- [Massages, Rubdowns, & Athletic Training Modalities](#)
- [APT Requirement for Adult Athletes](#)

It is important to note that a number of these policy changes will demonstrably alter the way we conduct business as a member of Illinois and USA Swimming. While some of the changes may be inconvenient, there is no greater priority that we all share than the health, safety, and well-being of our athletes.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Co-Head Coaches Tim Lewarchick (tklewarchick@aol.com) or Jon Cabel (jcabel@stcswim.com).

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