

Aquatic Club of Elkhorn

Locker Rooms & Changing Areas Policy

PURPOSE

Locker rooms and changing areas are private and enclosed spaces in which abuse can occur. To prevent abuse of minor athletes in these private areas, the MAAPP is intended to keep Applicable Adults from being present in a locker room or changing area at the same time as minor athletes.

The following policy applies to any and all locker rooms or changing areas in connection to practice, competitions, etc. used by minor athletes. The purpose is to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

The following is a description of our practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

We practice at Elkhorn Common Ground Community Center and Omaha Home for Boys.

Common Ground has specific locker rooms / changing areas available to our swimmers, which are shared with the Elkhorn Public Schools high school swim team. ACE swimmers are to use the high school locker rooms, not Common Ground member locker rooms. The high school locker rooms are only accessible from the pool deck as the doors from the lobby are to be locked at all times.

Omaha Home for Boys Aquatics facility has a male locker room and a female locker room. The locker rooms can be accessed from the hallway of the aquatics area. Use by other swimmers or athletes is very limited during our scheduled practice times. Swimmers and families are encouraged to “come in your suit, leave in your suit”.

Locker rooms should be considered as a shared place to change before and after practice, not a place for swimmers to play. Swimmers need to be respectful when using and leaving these areas as this is the exclusive space of Elkhorn Public Schools/ Common Ground who permit our members use. From time to time, Common Ground may permit the locker rooms to be shared with the Common Ground membership and/ or swim lesson families. As such, there is the potential for people who are not associated with the Aquatic Club of Elkhorn in the changing area around the time of practice periodically.

MONITORING

General Policy

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

The Aquatic Club of Elkhorn has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical for coaches to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time. The ACE coaching staff will periodically monitor the locker rooms using the following methods:

- a. Conducting a sweep of the locker room or changing area before athletes arrive;
- b. Posting staff directly outside the locker room or changing area during periods of use;
- c. Leaving the doors open when adequate privacy is still possible; and/or
- d. Making occasional sweeps of the locker rooms or changing areas with women checking on female locker rooms and men checking on male locker rooms.

Swimmers should use common courtesy when at the pool and keep the pool area and the locker rooms picked up. Be sure to turn off the showers, pick up after yourself, and pick up trash. Theft or destruction of property, belonging to another swimmer or the facility, will not be tolerated and will result in immediate disciplinary action. Use of the locker room is a privilege. If you choose to break any of the above listed rules, you will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension and/or termination from ACE. ACE will not tolerate behavior problems in the locker rooms. Anyone caught violating these rules may lose locker room privileges and be subject to removal from the club.

Parents/ legal guardians are discouraged from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let the coach or administrator know about this in advance.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase 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 area:

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.

ACE Disciplinary Guidelines and Procedures:

The ACE head coach and leadership staff have the authority to impose penalties for violation of the ACE Club Code of Conduct and USA Swimming Code of Conduct. Failure to comply with the Codes of Conduct set forth may result in disciplinary actions, which may include but are not limited to:

The disciplinary actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The individual will be verbally warned by the coach as to what misbehavior has occurred and be expected to stop the behavior immediately.
- If misbehavior continues, the individual will be dismissed from that meet or practice. If a swimmer's parent/guardian is not on the premises, the parent/ guardian will be contacted to inform them about the misbehavior and the swimmer must then wait in a designated area until a parent/guardian arrives.
- Further misbehavior may result in a period of suspension to be determined by the head coach during which time the individual must meet with the coaches to discuss ways to rectify the situation. Parents are responsible for all dues and fees during suspension.
- If after a period of suspension, should the individual be removed from another practice or meet, the matter will be brought before the ACE Board of Directors.
- If misbehavior persists after the disciplinary issue has been brought to the Board's attention, coaches will continue the steps of the discipline progression at an appropriate pace and will determine if expulsion from the club is warranted.
- These disciplinary procedures are guidelines and will be used at the discretion of the coaches. If a situation arises that affects the safety or well being of the swimmers in the water, swift and appropriate disciplinary measures may be appropriate.