



Safe Sport Best Practice Guidelines

compiled by USA Swimming

1. Parents are encouraged to appropriately support their children's swimming experience.
2. All swimming practices are open to observation by parents.
3. Coaches will not initiate contact with or accept supervisory responsibility for athletes outside club programs and activities.
4. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, at the competition the coach and athlete will attempt to establish a "buddy" club to associate with during the competition and when away from the venue.
5. Relationships of a peer-to-peer nature with any athletes will be avoided.
6. Coaches and other non-athlete adult members will avoid horseplay and roughhousing with athletes.
7. When a coach touches an athlete as part of instruction, the coach will do so in direct view of others and inform the athlete of what he/she is doing prior to the initial contact. Touching athletes will be minimized outside the boundaries of what is considered normal instruction. Appropriate interaction includes high fives, fist bumps, side-to-side hugs, and handshakes.
8. Coaches will avoid having athletes as their favorites. They will also avoid creating a situation that could be perceived as them having favorites.
9. Gift-giving, providing special favors, or showing favoritism to individual athletes is strongly discouraged.