



Coaches Code of Conduct

General Conduct

- Coaches are expected to consistently display high personal standards and to project a favorable image of the sport and of coaching to swimmers, other coaches, officials, administrators, spectators, the media, and the general public.
- At all times, adhere to [USA Swimming's](#) rules and [code of conduct](#).
- Coaches will display respect and treat all persons equally, within the context of their coaching activity, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, religious belief, or political affiliation.
- Act and dress with professionalism and dignity in a manner suitable to his/her profession.
- Respect officials and their judgment and abide by the rules of the event.
- Treat opposing coaches, participants, and spectators with respect.
- Instruct participants in sportsmanship and demand that they display good sportsmanship.
- Coach in a positive manner and do not use derogatory comments or abusive language.
- The use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs by Coaches will be consistent with high moral, ethical and legal standards of the profession of coaching. Coaches will not use alcohol in the presence of swimmers, nor will Coaches use, illegal or performance- enhancing drugs.
- Continue to seek and maintain their own professional development in all areas in relation to coaching and teaching children.

Coach-Athlete Relationships

- Always place the well-being, health, and safety of swimmers above all other considerations, including developing performance.
- Coaches will consult with swimmers and their families on medical treatment and will recognize the autonomy of those swimmers who are authorized to consent to such treatment.
- Coaches will ensure that activities being undertaken are suitable for the age, experience, and ability of the swimmer.
- Always maintain a professional separation between coach and athlete.
- Coaches will avoid any behavior that abuses the power inherent in the coaching position to encourage inappropriate physical or emotional intimacy between the Member and swimmer. Such behavior will be construed as sexual misconduct under this Code and will represent an automatic violation.
- No Member will engage in a sexual relationship with a minor. Coaches and teachers of college- or university-aged swimmers will not engage in sexual relations with swimmers whom they coach, regardless of the swimmer's age.

Coaching & Community

- Any decision of a court regarding a Member that reflects adversely on the profession of coaching, or on the sport of swimming in general, will constitute a violation of this Code.
- Disciplinary proceedings by an employer that lead to dismissal from employment connected with coaching or with the sport of swimming will constitute a violation of this Code, provided said dismissal was justly imposed.

Any complaints of a coach violating this code of conduct will be brought to the attention of his/her supervisor and/or the club's board of directors.