

Athlete Protection Policies

The City of Charleston Southern Marlins Racing Team in accordance with required USA Swimming standards adopts the following Athlete Protection Policies & Rules as recommended and written by USASwimming.

Protecting Athletes

We believe that the experience of children and young athletes in all organized sports should be guided by what is best for the safe and healthy development of the young person. Young athletes who participate in organized sports activities have a unique opportunity for learning. In working with each child, it is essential that we are mindful of their physical, emotional, and developmental needs. We must also be particularly diligent in recognizing the unique vulnerabilities that are an inherent part of childhood. It is the responsibility of all adults to not only recognize these vulnerabilities, but to develop the knowledge and skills needed to create and maintain a safe and child-centered sports environment.

We recognize the important role that USA Swimming plays in providing leadership and creating an organizational culture that is focused on the safety and wellbeing of young people. The protection of children requires that all adults work together to support young athletes. As the child's first and enduring resource for safety, parents and guardians play a critical role in athlete protection. When parents participate, they are able to help educate other adults about the needs of the child, and help prepare the child to participate in sports programs in a way that promotes safety, enjoyment, and learning.

Adults, including coaches, officials, staff, facility workers, volunteers, chaperones, and others who interact with children, are in also positions of great trust and influence. The ability to use this position of trust to support the well-being of children is critical. The overwhelming majority of these adults fulfill their roles in a positive and responsible manner. Nonetheless, we must also understand that a few adults may seek to use the trust and authority that comes with their access and status to take advantage of a child.

USA Swimming strives to continually improve the programs and services it offers to its members and among these some of the most important relate to the safeguards for protecting young athletes. Because we aspire to foster safe and positive environments within all our member clubs, we believe it is especially important to provide our member adult leaders with policies and best practice guidelines that help define elements of appropriate behavior and conduct.

Policies and Best Practice Guidelines for Athlete Protection

In order to provide a positive experience and a safe environment for athletes, all non-athlete adult members of USA Swimming should maintain professionalism and avoid any appearance of impropriety in their relationships with athletes. Coaches, in particular, should recognize the influence, power and position of trust they have with athletes and should use these only in an athlete's best interest.

This document provides specific mandatory policies and best practice guidelines that are strongly recommended.



2018 USA Swimming Code of Conduct

ARTICLE 304 CODE OF CONDUCT

304.1 The mission of USA Swimming is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of swimming. USA Swimming grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn or denied by USA Swimming at any time where USA Swimming determines that a member or prospective member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in swimming, USA Swimming has adopted this Code of Conduct.

304.2 Any member, former member, or prospective member of USA Swimming is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board of Review. Any member, former member, or prospective member of USA Swimming may be denied membership, censured, placed on probation, suspended for a definite or indefinite period of time with or without terms of probation, fined or expelled from USA Swimming for life if such person violates the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, set forth in 304.3, or aids, abets or encourages another person to violate any of the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct. USA Swimming shall initiate an investigation of any former member of USA Swimming when a report required under 306.1 is received.

304.3 The following shall be considered violations of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:

Measures to be adjudicated by the USA Swimming National Board of Review

.1 Violation of the right to compete provisions set forth in Article 301.

.2 Discrimination in violation of the Amateur Sports Act which requires that USA Swimming must provide an equal opportunity to athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in the sport of swimming. Athletes must be allowed to participate and compete to the fullest extent allowed by the Rules and Regulations. Discrimination against any member or participant on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation, gender expression, genetics, mental or physical disability, or any other status protected by federal, state or local law, where applicable, is prohibited.

.3 Violation of any of the Athlete Protection Policies set forth in Article 305.

.4 Violation of any of the Sexual Misconduct Reporting Requirements set forth in Article 306 or the Prohibitions against Retaliation for Good Faith Reporting of Abuse set forth in Article 307.

.5 Conviction of, imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest at any time, past or present, or the existence of any pending charges, for (i) any felony or (ii) any offense involving use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances.

6. The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance listed on FINA's recognized list of banned substances.

.7 The use of illegal drugs in the presence of an athlete, by a coach, official, trainer, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over, that athlete.

.8 The providing of alcohol to an athlete by a coach, official, trainer, manager or any other person where the athlete is under the legal age allowed to consume or purchase alcohol in the state where the alcohol is provided.

.9 The abuse of alcohol in the presence of an athlete under the age of eighteen (18), by a coach, official, trainer, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that athlete.

.10 For any USA Swimming member club or coach to knowingly:

- A. allow any person who has been sanctioned with a membership suspension by the Center for SafeSport or USA Swimming to coach or instruct any of its athlete members,
- B. aid or abet coaching or instruction of athletes by any person who has been sanctioned with a membership suspension by the Center for SafeSport or USA Swimming or
- C. allow any person who has been sanctioned with a membership suspension by the Center for SafeSport or USA Swimming to have an ownership interest in such USA Swimming club or its related entities.

Measures to be adjudicated by the USA Swimming Zone Boards of Review

.11 Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USA Swimming-related activity.

.12 Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or conduct directed towards any meet official and which is related to any decision made by such official in connection with a USA Swimming sanctioned competition.

.13 Action, other than through general advertising, by a coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative, or employee of a swim club, or a USA Swimming or LSC employee, either through direct contact with an athlete or the encouragement of others, to recruit or otherwise encourage an athlete who is already a member of a USA Swimming member swim club to leave that club, unless the acting party receives prior written approval to recruit or encourage the athlete to change affiliation from the designated club representative of the athlete's existing USA Swimming-member swim club or contact is initiated by the athlete, the athlete's parent or authorized representative. General advertising includes any information that is:

- A. Distributed to an identifiable general population where there is a reasonable expectation that the majority of that population are not current members of USA Swimming, or
- B. Placed in or on any item that is sold.

In the event of a violation of this section, a sanction may be imposed against any coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative or employee of a swim club, or against any such club, or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

.14 Violation of any team misconduct rule as established by the USOC, USA Swimming, any Zone or LSC team authority.

.15 Any other material and intentional act, conduct or omission not provided for above, which is detrimental to the image or reputation of USA Swimming, a LSC or the sport of swimming.

Measure to be adjudicated by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency

.16 Violation of the anti-doping provisions set forth in 303.3.

Measure to be adjudicated by the U.S. Center for SafeSport

.17 Violation of the SafeSport Code. [See page xxx]

ARTICLE 305

ATHLETE PROTECTION POLICIES

The following policies related to Athlete Protection are mandatory components of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:

305.1 Inappropriate touching between an athlete and an adult non-athlete member or Participating Non-Member (as defined in 401.1) is prohibited, including, but not limited to, excessive touching, hugging, kissing, and having an athlete sit on a non-family member adult's lap.

305.2 Any inappropriate sexual conduct or advance, or other inappropriate oral, written, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature at any time, past or present toward any person under the age of eighteen (18) by (i) a coach member or other non-athlete member, or (ii) any other adult participating in any capacity whatsoever in the activities of USA Swimming (whether such adult is a member or not) is prohibited.

305.3 Any rubdown or massage performed on an athlete by any adult member or Participating Non-Member, excluding the spouse, parent, guardian, sibling, or personal assistant of such athlete, is prohibited unless such adult is a licensed massage therapist or other certified professional. Any rubdown or massage performed at a swim venue by a licensed professional must be conducted in open/public locations and must never be done with only the athlete and licensed massage therapist in the room. Even if a coach is a licensed massage therapist, the coach shall not perform a rubdown or massage of an athlete under any circumstances.

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

305.5 Employees and volunteers of USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs and member clubs who interact directly and frequently with athletes as a regular part of their duties and individuals with any ownership interest in a member club must be non-athlete members of USA Swimming and satisfactorily complete criminal background checks as required by USA Swimming. This does not apply to volunteers such as timers, marshals, computer operators, etc., who only have limited contact with athletes during a meet. Any individual who is banned, currently suspended or ineligible for membership is prohibited from serving as a timer, marshal, or computer operator, or otherwise being on deck at any time in connection with a USA Swimming activity.

305.6 TRAVEL

.1 Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of that particular athlete.

.2 Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-required criminal background check.

.3 When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his/her parent's (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.

.4 Clubs and LSCs shall develop their own travel policies. USA Swimming will provide a model club travel policy as an example. Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.

305.7 Clubs shall establish their own action plans for implementing USA Swimming's anti-bullying policy. USA Swimming shall provide a model plan as an example which shall serve as the default for any club that fails to establish its own plan. Club anti-bullying plans must be reviewed and agreed to annually by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of the club.

305.8 Clubs shall establish their own electronic communication/social media policy. USA Swimming shall provide a model policy as an example, which shall serve as the default for any club that fails to establish its own policy. Club electronic communication policies should be reviewed and agreed to annually by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of the club.

ARTICLE 306

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

306.1 It is every member's responsibility to promptly report any incident regarding sexual misconduct by a member as described in the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement to the U.S. Center for SafeSport. Reporting must occur when an individual has firsthand knowledge of misconduct or where specific and credible information has been received from a victim or knowledgeable third party. Various state laws may also require reporting to law enforcement or to a designated child protection agency.

306.2 Filing a knowingly false allegation of sexual misconduct is prohibited and may violate state criminal law and civil defamation laws. Any person making a knowingly false allegation of sexual misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action by USA Swimming.

306.3 Neither civil nor criminal statutes of limitation apply to reports of cases of sexual abuse.

ARTICLE 307

PROHIBITIONS AGAINST RETALIATION FOR GOOD FAITH REPORTING OF ABUSE

307.1 No Member shall retaliate against any individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1 or 304.3.17.

307.2 For the purposes of 307.1, there shall be a rebuttal presumption that any adverse action regarding the employment, membership, or other material rights of an individual who has made a good faith report under 306.1 or 304.3.17 within 90 days of a report is retaliatory. An adverse action includes, without limitation: discharge or termination; demotion or reduction in compensation for services; or the removal of or from, or restrictions on access to facilities, team activities or team membership privileges.

In addition to the required Athlete Protection Policies as written by USA Swimming, the City of Charleston Southern Marlins Racing Team adopts the following:

1. Parents are encouraged to appropriately support their children's swimming experience.
2. All swimming practices will be open to observation by parents.
3. Two-deep Leadership: one coach member and at least one other adult who is not in the water will be present at all practices and other sanctioned club activities whenever at least one athlete is present. Clubs and coaches will evaluate their seasonal plans and map out how to best accomplish this strongly recommended guideline.
4. Open and Observable Environment: an open and observable environment will be maintained for all interactions between adults and athletes. Private, or one-on-one situations, will be avoided unless they are open and observable. Common sense will be used to move a meeting to an open and observable location if the meeting inadvertently begins in private.
5. Coaches should not invite or have an athlete(s) to their home without the written permission of the athlete's parents (or legal guardian).
6. During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and open and observable environments will be maintained.
7. Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior written parental permission is obtained.
8. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age. Where athletes are age 13 and over, chaperones and/or team managers would ideally stay in nearby rooms. When athletes are age 12 and under, chaperones and/or team managers may stay with athletes. Where chaperones/team managers are staying in a room with athletes, they should be the same gender as the athlete and written consent should be given by athlete's parents (or legal guardian).
9. 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.
10. Communications between non-athlete adult members and athletes will not include any topic or language that is sexual or inappropriate in nature.
11. Non-athlete adult members will respect the privacy of athletes in situations such as changing of clothes, showering, etc. Non-athlete adult members will protect their own privacy in similar situations.
12. Relationships of a peer-to-peer nature with any athletes will be avoided. For example, coaches will avoid sharing their own personal problems with athletes.
13. Coaches and other non-athlete adult members will avoid horseplay and roughhousing with athletes.
14. 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 would include high fives, fist bumps, side-to-side hugs and handshakes.
15. Coaches should not engage in sexual intimacies with a former athlete for at least two years after the cessation or termination of professional services.

Because sexual intimacies with a former athlete are frequently harmful to the athlete, and because such intimacies undermine public confidence in the coaching profession and thereby deter the public's use of needed services, coaches should not engage in sexual intimacies with former athletes even after a two-year interval except in the most unusual circumstances. The coach who engages in such activity after the two years following cessation or termination of the coach-athlete relationship bears the burden of demonstrating that there has been no exploitation, in light of all relevant factors, including:

 1. The amount of time that has passed since the coach-athlete relationship terminated;
 2. The circumstances of termination;
 3. The athlete's personal history;
 4. The athlete's current mental status;
 5. The likelihood of adverse impact on the athlete and others; and
 6. Any statements or actions made by the coach during the course of the athlete coach relationship suggesting or inviting the possibility of a post-termination sexual or romantic relationship with the athlete or coach.
 7. Both the athlete and the coach must be 18 years of age or older.