

Code of Conduct: Coach

The purpose of this revised code of conduct for coaches is to establish common expectations for all members of the coaching staff of Mako Aquatics ("Coach"). It is to be used as a guide to promote an environment of respect and safety for all participants in Mako Aquatics; including athletes, coaches, officials, parents and volunteers.

Always maintain a professional separation between Coach and athlete.

- ☐ At all times, adhere to USA Swimming's rules and code of conduct.
- ☐ At all times, adhere to any requirements imposed by the U.S. Center for SafeSport
- ☐ **One-on-One interactions** (with unrelated minor athletes), including Social Media Interactions
 - ☐ Observable and Interruptible
 - ☐ One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and Coach (who is not the minor's legal guardian) must occur at an observable and interruptible distance from another adult or under emergency circumstances.
- ☐ **Meetings**
 - ☐ Meetings between a minor athlete and Coach may only occur if another adult is present and where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.
 - ☐ If a one-on-one meeting takes place, the door to the room must remain unlocked and open. If available, it must occur in a room that has windows, with the windows, blinds, and/or curtains remaining open during the meeting.
 - ☐ Meetings must not be conducted in a Coach's or athlete's hotel room or other overnight lodging location during team travel.
- ☐ **Individual Training Sessions**
 - ☐ Individual training sessions outside of the regular course of training and practice between Coach and minor athletes are permitted if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. Legal guardians must be allowed to observe the training session.
- ☐ **Social Media and Electronic Communications**
 - ☐ All electronic communication from Coach to minor athletes must be professional in nature.
 - ☐ Open and Transparent - Absent emergency circumstances, if a Coach needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), the minor athlete's legal guardian must be copied. If a minor athlete communicates to the Coach privately first, said Coach must copy the minor athlete's legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minor athlete.
 - ☐ When a Coach communicates electronically to the entire team, said Coach must copy another adult. When possible use the TU platform (including OnDeck app) to communicate.
 - ☐ Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the club or by a Coach subject to this Policy. The organization must abide by any such request that the minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, or included in any social media post, absent emergency circumstances.

☐ Electronic communications must only be sent between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., unless emergency circumstances exist, or during competition travel.

☐ Prohibited Electronic Communication - Coach is not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such Coach is not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may follow the club's official page.

☐ Coach must not send private, instant or direct messages to a minor athlete through social media platforms.

☐ If electronic communication is initiated by athlete; responses should include another coach or parent/guardian and follow communication guidelines outlined above

☐ **Travel**

☐ Local Travel - Local travel consists of travel to training, practice and competition that occurs locally and does not include coordinated overnight stay(s).

☐ Coach must not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must always have at least two minor athletes or another adult in the vehicle, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete's legal guardian. (A Consent to Travel document is available if needed)

Set a good example of respect, sportsmanship and safety for participants and fans to follow

☐ 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 respect and good sportsmanship.

☐ Coach in manner that provides constructive criticism and does not use demeaning or abusive language.

☐ Win with humility and lose with dignity.

☐ Always place the well-being, health, and safety of swimmers above all other considerations, including developing performance.

Continue to seek and maintain your own professional development in all areas in relation to coaching and development of minor athletes.

☐ Maintain active coaching certifications, including continuing coaching education requirements, athlete protection training, concussion training, etc.

Act and dress with professionalism and dignity in a manner suitable to your profession.

☐ Wear Mako Aquatics or similarly designated (i.e. TYR or USA Swimming, etc.) apparel at all events representing the club

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

Signed

Dated