



Policy to Adopt USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies and Best Practices and Additional Team Travel Policy Statements

Approved: 9/10/09

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Swim GSA firmly supports USA Swimming's athlete protection programs and strives to provide an exceptional swim team experience that is safe and positive for our athletes, our coaches, our volunteers and our membership.

Swim GSA will adopt and operate under USA Swimming's Athlete Protection policies as stated in Article 305 of the USA Swimming Rule Book and Best Practices Guidelines. The policies related to Athlete Protection are mandatory components of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct and the SGSA Code of Conduct. SGSA's policy will automatically update as USA Swimming Athlete Protection policies are updated.

USA Swimming/Swim GSA Athlete Protection Policies

- 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, sexually oriented behavior, sexually stimulating or otherwise inappropriate games, and having an athlete sit on a non-family member adult's lap.
- 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.
- Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.
- Swim GSA employees and volunteers who interact directly and frequently with athletes as

a regular part of their duties 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, marshalls, computer operators, etc. who only have limited contact with athletes during a meet.

- No SGSA athlete, coach or member will operate a recording device of any kind in the locker rooms or changing areas or behind the blocks at practices or at meets.

USA Swimming/Swim GSA Mandatory Reporting Policies

- It is every member's responsibility to promptly report any incident regarding sexual misconduct by a member as described above to USA Swimming's Athlete Protection Officer. 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. NC state reporting laws must also be observed.
- No member shall retaliate against any individual who has made a good faith report under USA Swimming policy.
- False reporting of sexual misconduct made in bad faith is prohibited and is a violation of SGSA's Code of Conduct.
- Neither civil nor criminal statutes of limitation apply to reports of cases of sexual abuse.

Swim GSA Team Travel (Safe Sport) Policy

Team Travel is defined as overnight travel or out-of-town travel to a swim meet or other team activity that is planned and supervised by Swim GSA. Two-deep leadership, by a coach and chaperone, is required for team travel where parents or legal guardians are not in attendance.

- SGSA travel policy must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the team.
- Swimmer minimum age to participate in overnight team travel shall be 13 years old. 12 and under athletes must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to attend.
- Coaches and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-administered criminal background check.
- 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).
- When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his/her parents' (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.
- During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and open and observable environments should be maintained.

- Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior parental permission is obtained.
- All passengers must wear seat belts and remain seated in vehicles.
- During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age. Coaches and chaperones should stay in nearby rooms. Only hotels with interior room entrances shall be utilized.
- When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, at the competition the coach and athlete should attempt to establish a "buddy" club to associate with during the competition and when away from the venue.
- To ensure the propriety of the athletes and to protect the staff, there will be no male athletes in female athlete's rooms and no female athletes in male athlete's rooms (unless the other athlete is a sibling or spouse of that particular athlete).
- All Athletes & Staff Must stay in assigned hotel room
- A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- A Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- A Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- Curfews shall be established by the staff each day of the trip.
- No Team Member may be out of his or her room after the assigned curfew. Permission must be obtained from the coach to leave the room past this time.
- Team members will attend all team functions including meetings, practices, meals, meet sessions, etc. unless otherwise excused or instructed by the head coach or his/her designee. A list of all establishments for planned team outings (including meals) shall be provided in advance and approved by all swimmers' parents or legal guardians.
- The directions and decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
- Swimmers are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Swimmers are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, a restaurant, or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- No "deck" changes are permitted. Athletes are expected to use available change facilities.
- When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons.
- The Head Coach shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the SGSA Board and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

**WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATHLETE PROTECTION and TEAM TRAVEL
POLICY**



I acknowledge that I have received, read and understood the Athlete Protection and Team Travel Policy and/or that the Policy has been explained to me or my family. I further acknowledge and understand that agreeing to comply with the contents of this Policy is a condition of my membership with Swim GSA.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____