

# **Sun Prairie Swim Inc. PO Box 1023, Sun Prairie, WI 53590**

## **Sun Prairie Swim, Inc. Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy**

**Board Approved: 04/28/2020**

### **Objective:**

Sun Prairie Swim, Inc. (SPS) policy on Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention policy shall be in effect at all times, including practices and meets that are not at our regularly scheduled practice locations. The athletes, parents/guardians and coaches will act in accordance with this policy and the posted regulations and standards for each facility that the team uses, however, the more restrictive policy will take precedence in each case.

**This policy applies to all Athletes, Parents, Guardians and “Applicable Adults” as defined by USA Center for Safe Sports:**

1. All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members;
2. Participating non-members (e.g., meet marshals, meet computer operators, timers, chaperones, etc.);
3. SPS adult staff and board members; and
4. Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all athletes, parents/guardians, coaches and other non-athlete members of SPS on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the club.

SPS adopts the following USA Swimming Best Practices as rules to be followed by all athletes, parents/guardians, coaches and other non-athlete members of SPS:

1. Parents should be encouraged to appropriately support their children’s swimming experience.
2. All swimming practices should be open to observation by parents/guardians.
3. Coaches should not initiate contact with or accept supervisory responsibility for athletes outside club programs and activities.
4. When only one minor athlete and coach travel to a competition, the minor athlete’s parent/guardian must accompany the athlete. At the competition the coach and minor athlete should 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 should be avoided. For example, coaches should avoid sharing their own personal problems with athletes.

6. Coaches and other non-athlete adult members should avoid horseplay and roughhousing with athletes.
7. When a coach touches an athlete as part of instruction, the coach should do so in direct view of others and inform the athlete of what he/she is doing prior to the initial contact. Touching athletes should 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.
8. Coaches should avoid having athletes as their favorites. They should 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.

## ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

### 1. Observable and Interruptible

One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (who is not the minor's legal guardian) must occur at an observable and interruptible distance from another adult unless meeting with a Mental Health Care Professional and/or Health Care Provider (see below) or under emergency circumstances.

### 2. Meetings

Meetings between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult 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.

- b. 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.
- c. Meetings must not be conducted in an Applicable Adult or athlete's hotel room or other overnight lodging location during team travel.

### 3. Meetings with Mental Health Care Professionals and/or Health Care Providers

If a Mental Health Care Professional and/or Health Care Provider meets with a minor athlete in conjunction with participation, including at practice or competition sites, a closed-door meeting may be permitted to protect patient privacy provided that:

- a. The door remains unlocked;
- b. Another adult is present at the facility;
- c. The other adult is advised that a closed-door meeting is occurring; and
- d. Written legal guardian consent is obtained in advance by the Mental Health Care Professional and/or Health Care Provider, with a copy provided to the club.

### 4. Individual Training Sessions

Individual training sessions outside of the regular course of training and practice between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted if the training session is observable and interruptible by another adult. Parents/ guardians must be allowed to observe the training session.

## COMMUNICATIONS

All communications, including but not limited to social media, electronic communications, one on one and group face to face communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities.

1. All communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature. All communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

Example of communication, but not limited, should not contain or relate to any of the following:

- drugs or alcohol use
- sexually oriented conversation; sexually explicit language; sexual activity
- the adult's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues, or personal problems
- inappropriate or sexually explicit pictures
- Must be free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.

2. Communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional.

3. Open and Transparent

- a. Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), the minor athlete's legal guardian must be copied.
- b. If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult must copy the minor athlete's legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minor athlete.
- c. When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult must copy another adult.

4. Requests to Discontinue

Parents/guardians may request in writing that their minor athlete not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the SPS or by an Applicable Adult subject to this Policy. The organization shall 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.

5. Hours

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.

6. Prohibited Electronic Communication

Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes and such

Applicable Adults are not permitted to accept new personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes, unless the Applicable Adult has a fan page, or the contact is deemed as celebrity contact as opposed to regular contact.

1. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued.
2. Minor athletes may “friend” the club and/or SPS official page.
3. Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes must not send private, instant or direct messages to a minor athlete through social media platforms or other messaging systems.
4. All messages must include a second Applicable Adult or Parent/Guardian.

## TRAVEL

SPS has a separate, detailed policy on travel and SPS will adhere to that policy

## LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS

Locker rooms and changing areas will be provided. SPS has a separate, detailed policy on Locker Rooms and SPS will adhere to that policy.

## MASSAGES AND RUBDOWNS/ATHLETE TRAINING MODALITIES

Definition: “Massage” refers to any massage, rubdown, athletic training modality including physical modalities (e.g., stretching, physical manipulation, injury rehabilitation, etc.) and electronic or instrument assisted modalities (e.g., stim treatment, dry needling, cupping, etc.).

1. General Requirement: Any Massage performed on an athlete must be conducted in an open and interruptible location and must be performed by a licensed massage therapist or other certified professional. However, even if a coach is a licensed massage therapist, the coach must not perform a rubdown or massage of an athlete under any circumstance.

2. Additional Minor Athlete Requirements

- a. Written consent by a legal guardian must be obtained in advance by the licensed massage therapist or other certified professional, with a copy provided to the club.
- b. Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe the Massage.
- c. Any Massage of a minor athlete must be done with at least one other adult present and must never be done with only the minor athlete and the person performing the Massage in the room.

Anyone violating this policy shall be subject to SPS disciplinary action and legal referral, if applicable. Any persons violating the policy may be subject to penalties pursuant to state/federal law. All SPS coaches, parents, guardians, board members and meet personnel shall be responsible for enforcing this policy. This policy will be included in the SPS handbook. Each parent/guardian is expected to read and know the handbook.