



SWAT Locker Room Monitoring Policy

PURPOSE

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

The following is a description of Southwest Aquatics Team (SWAT) practice and competition facilities to allow athletes and families to plan appropriately:

SWAT practices at swimming pools owned and maintained by the City of El Paso Parks and Recreational Department. SWAT practices are held at the following locations:

Westside Natatorium
650 Wallenberg Drive
El Paso, Texas 79912

Westside Family YMCA
7145 N. Mesa
El Paso, TX 79912

Ascarate Park Pool
6900 Delta Dr
El Paso, TX 79905

In addition SWAT may rent lanes at other locations owned and operated by the City of El Paso.

These locations have male and female facilities with toilet areas, showering facilities, dressing areas and lockers. These facilities are shared with the public, except when being used specifically for USA Swimming/Local Swimming Committee (LSC)-Border Swimming sanctioned swim meets. During sanctioned meets, non-participating adults/athletes are prohibited from using locker rooms. Family restrooms and changing areas are available at all locations.

MONITORING

SWAT Staff (Coaches, Board Members, Parent Liaisons, other designated persons) make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition. If athletes do not return in a timely fashion, within 10 minutes, SWAT Staff will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary (e.g. a child under the age of eight that needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear or an athlete's disability warrants assistance). In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent and they should let the coach or administrator know about this in advance. The reason for entering the locker room should be addressed promptly, exiting as quickly as possible.



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NOTE: El Paso Parks and Recreation Policy states that children six (6) years of age or older must use the gender appropriate locker room.

Locker Room Sweeps

While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand this would likely make swimmers uncomfortable. It may even place SWAT Staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion as multiple LSC teams may be using the facilities simultaneously.

Additionally, SWAT has staggered practices with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time. While we do not post SWAT Staff inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. Given the locker rooms are frequently open to the public, sweeps are necessary to ensure the safety of our athletes. Sweeps are brief in nature and intended to identify obvious problems.

Coaches make initial sweeps of the locker rooms upon reporting for practice. Female coaches perform initial sweeps of female locker rooms and male coaches perform initial sweeps of male locker rooms.

SWAT Staff continue periodic sweeps throughout practice with women checking on female locker rooms and men checking on male locker rooms.

At the conclusion of practice, coaches perform a final sweep of locker rooms before leaving. Again, female coaches sweep female locker rooms and male coaches sweep male locker rooms.

SWAT Staff members are encouraged to work in pairs when performing sweeps. However, since SWAT practices at shared facilities, SWAT Staff should not delay locker room sweeps if circumstances dictate a lone Staff member make an immediate sweep.

As locker room facilities at all practice locations are public, parents and athletes should report any concerning activity to SWAT Staff AND the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. The USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) prohibits the use of such devices in locker rooms or other changing areas:



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

SWAT instructs athletes to avoid use of ANY function on their cell phones while inside locker rooms. Cell phones should remain in a pocket or bag while inside the locker room. Communication via cell phone should be conducted before entering the locker room area and can resume after exiting.

NOTE: El Paso Parks and Recreation Policy also prohibits use of cell phones or recording devices in locker rooms and changing areas. Failure to abide by the policy could result in being banned from the use of El Paso Parks and Recreation Facilities.

LOCKER ROOM CONDUCT

SWAT athletes are expected to comply with the USA Swimming/SWAT code of conduct. SWAT athletes should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the team. Abusive or profane language, obscene gestures, or any generally offensive behavior will not be tolerated, whether inside or outside the locker rooms.

ADDRESSING MISCONDUCT

Misconduct in the locker room constitutes a SWAT Swimmer Code of Conduct violation. In the event of such occurrence, the violation will be handled in accordance with the code. As such the athlete or athletes who conducted the violation will be subject to disciplinary action taken by their coach(es) and potentially SWAT's Board of Directors. Additionally, if the violation involves a Safe Sport issue, the athlete or athletes may also be subject to mandatory reporting and disciplinary action in accordance with USA Swimming's rules and regulations.