

Cascade Swim Club
Parent Code of Conduct Document

Purpose:

This document is intended to outline the expected actions and behaviors for all parents as members of the Cascade Swim Club ("Cascade" or the "club"). Cascade is committed to providing an environment of respect that supports the pursuit of individual and team excellence. Being a member of Cascade is a special privilege, and with it comes responsibility. Irresponsible behavior by Parents can result in severe damage to the integrity of the club.

Application:

The Cascade Parent Code of Conduct outlines the club's expectations of each of our parents and potential disciplinary action which may ensue resulting from inappropriate behavior during any club related function including as it relates to possible cyber / social media interaction between club members. This policy applies to all parents within Cascade as they act and represent the club, and act as examples to our swimmers.

Responsibilities, Guidelines and Procedures:

Possibly one of the greatest benefits of participating in an organized swim program is the "life skills" your child will develop. These skills include time management, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. Remember that your child is the swimmer. Children need to establish their own goals and make their own progress towards their goals.

As a parent, your major responsibility is to provide a stable, loving and supportive environment. Show your interest by ensuring your child's attendance at practices and by coming to meets. Parents serve as role models and your child often emulates your attitude. Parents should keep in mind the sensitivity in dealing with issues that arise and understand that we are dealing with the support of our children / swimmers, most of whom are minors. With this in mind we ask that you abide by the following code of conduct.

The Cascade Parent Code of Conduct outlines the club's expectations of each member and potential discipline resulting from inappropriate behavior during any club function. This would include practices, events, club travel, meet attendance or representation at any club sanctioned event. In cases where the conduct adversely affects the Club's reputation, parent conduct outside of club events but involving interactions between members and swimmers may be considered an infraction if a formal grievance is filed.

As Cascade has a current "online" presence both through the internet and a variety of social media mediums, the club is mindful that all content displayed through online / social media must be of an appropriate and "family friendly" nature. Cascade also recognizes that any misuse or misrepresentation through its online mediums that could be interpreted as "cyberbullying", as defined below, will not be tolerated and would be considered a major infraction of the Parent Code of Conduct.

Code of Conduct:

1. Strive to be positive role models. Most importantly, show good sportsmanship at all times toward coaches, officials, opponents, and teammates. Provide positive comments that motivate and encourage participants' continued effort. Parents shall at all times treat all individuals and property with courtesy and respect.
2. Parents should respect that the on-deck area is for swimmers and coaches during training and / or competition unless they are acting as an official. The coach's attention during these times should be focused on his / her swimmers. Parents should continue to support their swimmer from the spectator-designated areas.
3. Ensure good communication with your child's coach. If there is an issue, it should be resolved in private between the parent and coach. Critical or negative comments should never be voiced in front of the swimmers or in front of other parents in the stands.
4. Let your coach coach. Your child has a paid professional coach who has the responsibility of developing your swimmer's technical knowledge of our sport. Best results always come from letting your child's coach do the coaching. Parents should provide their support and encouragement and allow the coaches to provide the technical and critical direction.
5. Parents shall ensure their swimmers bring to practices and swim meets the proper equipment and clothing as identified by their coaches.
6. Parents shall never provide or advocate the use of performance enhancing drugs or banned substances.
7. If your swimmer is a minor the monitoring and responsibility of your swimmer's cyber actions (SMS text, web, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) is the responsibility of the parent.
8. Be aware and follow Cascade club policies and volunteer commitments and be willing to fulfill them. We are all busy but if everyone shares equally in the commitments, the lighter the load will be.
9. Show appreciation to all competitors, coaches, officials and volunteers while also respecting the decisions of officials and encourage athletes to do the same. Parents shall refrain from any behavior or comments which are profane, insulting, harassing, hostile, sexist, racist, disrespectful or otherwise offensive.
10. The club has a system in place for parents to discuss any concerns regarding their swimmer or the program. These are to be found in Cascade Grievance Policy Document. Please look to bring any concerns you may have according to this policy. Generally your first point of contact regarding anything to do with the technical program (in the water, on the deck or in the gym) should be your child's coach or that coach's immediate supervisor. If you are unclear about whom these people are you can clarify this by calling the club office. Any administrative concerns can be brought forward to the club office.

If we all follow these simple rules, all swimmers will have a positive experience with the sport. Parents who are in violation of any part of the Parent Code of Conduct will be approached by a member of the Board of Directors to discuss inappropriate behavior and reconciliation. Failure to rectify the violation following the meeting with the member of the Board of Directors will result in a sanction being applied to the member following a vote by the Board of Directors.

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