

## **PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT**

As a member of the Williston Sea Lions Swim Club (WSL), I am part of a swimming organization that believes teamwork, integrity, respect and good sportsmanship are more important than winning. By signing this Code of Conduct, I agree to follow the rules for behavior and sportsmanship while I am a member of WSL. The following guidelines state the principles WSL expects all members to demonstrate and uphold.

WSL is fortunate to have experienced, professional coaches working to develop our children into better swimmers, and more importantly, teaching and instilling important life skills. These skills include time-management, self-discipline and sportsmanship. Your child will reap the benefits of swimming long after his/her participation with WSL ends.

As parents, it is absolutely essential that we give our coaching staff the respect and authority they deserve to run our swim team. Our coaches are hired for that purpose and the Head Coach oversees the direction of the staff.

### **PART I – PARENT CODE of CONDUCT**

- Set the right example for our children by showing respect and common courtesy at all times to the team members, coaches, competitors, officials, parents, and for all facilities and other property used during practice or competition.
- Respect the integrity of swim officials by assuming decisions are based on honest, objective evaluations of performance. Only coaches may approach meet officials for clarification of rulings.
- Understand that opposing teams, including their swimmers, coaches, and fans, want the same positive experiences for their swimmers as we do. Help WSL achieve our goals by avoiding criticism either verbally or by gesture. Look for opportunities to build rapport with teams that we compete and work with.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship during all practices, competitions and team activities. WSL wins gracefully, loses graciously and congratulates their opponents either way.
- Support your professional coaches as they strive to do what is best for each WSL swimmer. Our expectations and methods are based on USA Swimming, the American Swim Coaches Association and other recognized swimming authorities. Realize that swimmers become easily confused when coached by parents and benefit most from positive reinforcement of the professional coaching staff's instructions and advice. Your unconditional love and support before and after races will help them best.
- Represent WSL with excellence, respect, team spirit, good sportsmanship, and politeness.
- If you have coaching concerns, address it with the appropriate coach in private. If you have club concerns, address it with an WSL board member in private.
- Maintain open and honest communication among all members of the WSL family. We reach our common goals by working together.
- Ensure that responses on any of the team's communications channels (voicemails, Group Me, TeamSnap) remain professional and considerate.
- Insist that your child refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, drugs, other prohibited substances, violence, abusive or foul language, inappropriate sexual conduct or any other behavior deemed dishonest, discourteous, offensive or disrespectful of others.

## **PART II – PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Assist the coaches in conducting effective practices by ensuring swimmers arrive and leave on time and bring the proper equipment.
- Arrive at meets in time for volunteer or swimmer check in, stretching and warm-ups.
- Know your role. Swimmers – Swim / Coaches – Coach / Officials – Officiate / Parents – Parent
- Do not interrupt or confront the coaching staff on the pool deck during practice or meets, including not being present on deck during practice or competitions unless you are working at the meet. Coaches are available before or after training, meets and competitions for feedback or to discuss issues.
- Assist the coaches by not talking with or motioning to swimmers during practices unless clearing it with a coach first.
- Do not speak harshly or directly to a child who is not your own. Please contact a coach or a board member if you have an issue with another parent's child. The WSL board member or coach will approach the child's parent, if necessary.
- Maintain self-control at all times. Refrain from inappropriate behavior that detracts from a positive image of the team or is detrimental to our performance.
- Be an active participant in all fundraising events and other team activities and encourage and support your child by ensuring your child is timely for all WSL events.
- Trust and support your swimmer's and coach's decisions around goal-setting, training commitments, swim event entries, and meet schedules. Do not impose your ambitions on your child.
- Any questions about disqualifications, judging, etc. should be directed to your swimmer's coach.
- Get involved...be an official, volunteer at meets, work on a committee, help plan a fundraiser, help plan a group social. Find something you enjoy!
- Pay your fees on time.
- Know and uphold WSL rules, regulations, management and coach directives, and by-laws that are designed to maximize the experience for all swimmers and parents.

## **PART III – VIOLATION OF THE CODE of CONDUCT – PARENTS**

Violation by parents who fail to abide by the code of conduct, will be discussed and voted by the Board and may include, but not limited to, the following penalties:

- The Board will give the parent a written warning.
- The Board will inform parent that swimmer will not be allowed to practice in next four practices or next upcoming meet.
- The Board will remove the parent and swimmer from the roster.
- Parent/swimmer will be banned from joining WSL in the future.

Your acknowledgement during registration indicated, you have reviewed the Williston Sea Lions Code of Conduct with the registered athlete(s) and the athlete(s) understands the Williston Sea Lions Code of Conduct. You (the parent/guardian) and the swimmer(s) agree to abide by this Code and accept the penalties for not abiding by these rules. Any non-compliance may be subject to disciplinary action determined by the coaches and/or the Board, which may include expulsion from the team.