

## **CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF THE ASCA**

The conduct and ethical behavior of a professional is determined by the degree of respect with which he/she interacts with the public that he/ she serves. This public consists of both client and peer. The intent of the following code is to define the parameters of that interaction, and to provide for adherence to the following components.

Compliance with this code, as with all law in an open society, depends primarily upon understanding and voluntary compliance, secondarily, upon reinforcement by peer and public opinion, and finally, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary proceedings. The code does not exhaust the moral and ethical considerations that should inform an ASCA Member professional swim coach, for no worthwhile human activity can be completely defined by rules. This simply provides a framework for the ethical coaching of the sport of swimming.

### **Section A. PERSONAL CONDUCT**

Article #1. A Coach Member of the American Swimming Coaches Association shall not abuse alcohol in the presence of athletes. A Coach Member of the ASCA shall not use illegal or recreational drugs. A legal conviction for possession or sale of any illegal substance shall be an automatic violation of this rule.

Article #2. All professional communications shall be conducted in an honest, open manner consistent with the best interests of the sport and the profession. Integrity is a basic part of coaching, whether financially or in dealing with swimming events and entries. A member is accurate at all times to the best of their knowledge.

### **Section B. COACH TO COACH**

Article #1. In all professional matters regarding the changing of organizational affiliation of athletes, the initial discussion of any such change in affiliation should be initiated by the athlete, and not by the coach, or direct agent acting on behalf of the coach.

### **Section C. COACH TO ATHLETE**

Article #1. A coach member of the American Swimming Coaches Association will always make decisions based on the best interest of the athlete.

Article #2. A coach member of the American Swimming Coaches Association shall not engage in sexual relations with any minor.

Article #3. Sexual misconduct consists of any behavior that utilizes the influence of the coaching position to encourage inappropriate intimacy between coach and athlete.

Article #4. Coaches of Collegiate age athletes shall not engage in sexual relations with athletes that they coach, even of legal age.

### **Section D. COACH TO COMMUNITY**

Article #1. Any legal felony conviction will constitute a violation of the Code of Conduct. See also Section A above.

## **ENFORCEMENT OF THE CODE OF ETHICS**

The Ethics Committee shall be elected by the ASCA membership in the Olympic Year. Four positions shall be elected for a four year term. A fifth shall be appointed by the ASCA President, to chair this committee. This Chair shall be an ASCA Vice-President. The first four positions may be Board Members or non-Board Members. Each candidate for a position on the Ethics Committee must have 5 years of experience as an ASCA Member..

### **Responsibilities of the Ethics Committee shall be:**

1. To develop each month, a sample case regarding ethics and conduct to act as a case-book when accumulated, to delineate conduct that is acceptable and unacceptable within the context of the four areas of the Code of Ethics and Conduct. This case-book example shall be published each month in the ASCA Newsletter and Magazine as part of on-going education in Professional Ethics and Conduct.
2. To receive and investigate complaints pertaining to matters of ethical behavior among the members of the Association.
3. In regard to said investigative responsibility, develop procedures to ensure the individual™s right to due process is protected at all times in the procedure.
4. To develop within the due process system, a series of potential penalties for those members found in violation of our code of ethics. These will be of varying degrees of severity and may include temporary or permanent revocation of membership or certification.
5. To deliver said penalties in such cases as may be necessary to protect the integrity of our membership.