

SHARKS Swim Club Anti-Bullying Policies

We strive to maintain the SHARKS Swim Club as a team where swimmers are safe, feel safe, and are treated with due respect. In addition to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct and the SHARKS Code of Conduct, the SHARKS Swim Club Anti-Bullying policies are in effect:

1. in and around training and competition sites, including changing areas and parking lots/grounds of training facilities.
2. at any events or on trips organized by the team.

Definition

Bullying takes place in many forms and should not be tolerated. It may include:

1. physical abuse – e.g. kicking, hitting, and/or gestures.
2. verbal abuse – e.g. name-calling, sarcasm and ridicule.
3. emotional abuse – e.g. spreading rumors, exclusion from friendship circle and blackmail.
4. extortion – e.g. gaining money from threats or threatening behavior.

Responsibilities

SHARKS Swim Club will do all in its power to create an environment where all members – swimmers, coaches and parents – realize that bullying is not acceptable behavior.

Swimmers are expected to

1. respect the individual right of all members.
2. be sensitive to the feelings of fellow swimmers.
3. have a caring manner with team members.
4. immediately report any incidents of bullying, knowing that, whenever possible, all information will be dealt with confidentially. Swimmers should report incidents to their Coach, another member of the coaching staff, or their parents. Parents should contact the Head Coach if a swimmer is being bullied or is engaging in bullying behavior.

Procedure

Depending on the nature and seriousness of an occurrence of bullying or prolonged bullying, the following sanctions, and possibly others, will be taken:

1. parents of the swimmer engaging in bullying behavior will be informed of the incident and a verbal warning will be issued.
2. formal warning will be given in the form of a letter to the parents and/or swimmer that future incidents could lead to expulsion from the SHARKS Swim Club.
3. expulsion from the SHARKS Swim Club.