



The USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) applies to Applicable Adults. This resource is intended to provide information regarding implementing the Applicable Adults definition in the policy.

Applicable Adults

- All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members;
- Participating non-members (e.g. meet marshals, meet computer operators, timers, etc.);
- LSC and club adult staff and board members; and
- Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete. Collectively “Applicable Adult(s)”

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When am I an Applicable Adult?

A: Once you trigger any of the four descriptions of an Applicable Adult you are an Applicable Adult.

Q: How long do I retain Applicable Adult status?

A: An individual is an Applicable Adult for as long as one of the four descriptions applies to that individual.

Q: How is “adult athlete” defined?

A: An adult athlete is an athlete member age 18 and over.

Q: Are chaperones Applicable Adults?

A: Yes. Chaperones are adults authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete and therefore trigger Applicable Adult status.

Q: Are junior coaches Applicable Adults?

A: Yes. Junior coaches under the age of 18 are Applicable Adults because they are USA Swimming non-athlete members. Junior coaches are perceived to be in a position of power or authority over minor athletes. As a result, junior coaches must be educated on the importance of boundaries between adults and youth are important. This knowledge base will be important for junior coaches who become adult coaches.

Q: Are parent meet volunteers Applicable Adults?

A: Yes. A parent meet volunteer is an Applicable Adult if the parent triggers any of the four descriptions of an Applicable Adult. For example, if the volunteer is authorized to have regular contact or authority over minor athletes during the meet, that volunteer is an Applicable Adult.

UPDATED QUESTIONS (June 13, 2019)

Q: Does MAAPP apply when I am engaged in non-USA Swimming activities (e.g., NCAA recruiting, coaching a scholastic team)?

A: No. MAAPP only applies to Applicable Adults engaged in USA Swimming activities.

Q: What if I am a USA Swimming coach member and also an NCAA coach, when am I an Applicable Adult?

A: MAAPP applies to Applicable Adults and their interactions with minor athlete solely in conjunction with USA Swimming activities. While we encourage our members to take the necessary steps to protect minor athletes from abuse in sport regardless of the organizational affiliation, the expectations set forth in MAAPP will only be enforced and audited with respect to USA Swimming activities.

Q: Do all Applicable Adults have to become USA Swimming members and complete APT and a background check, specifically those participating non-members?

A: No. MAAPP applies to Applicable Adults. The APT requirement of membership applies to USA Swimming members. Participating non-members, by definition, are not USA Swimming members and do not have complete the requirements of membership. The requirements to become a member can be found in Article 305.5 of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations.



Q: Is a U.S. Masters Swimming (“USMS”) member an Applicable Adult?

A: An individual is an Applicable Adult if he or she meets any of the four descriptions of an Applicable Adult, so a USMS member may be “Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete.” However, we would not consider a USMS member who only has contact with a minor athlete by virtue of being at the same competition to meet this standard and be considered an Applicable Adult. By comparison, a USMS member who regularly trains with minor athletes at practice would be more likely to meet this standard.

Q: What does “authority over” mean when referencing Applicable Adults in MAAPP?

A: An individual has authority over a minor athlete when a power imbalance exists between the adult and the minor athlete or when the adult has perceived power over a minor athlete. A coach always has this perceived power over or power imbalance between him or herself and the minor athlete. A volunteer or participating non-member, depending on their role, might have that perceived power only while fulfilling their volunteer roles.

Q: Do volunteers at meets have to fulfill the General Acknowledgement section of MAAPP?

A: No. The General Acknowledgement section applies to athletes, parents, coaches and non-athlete members of a member club. It is not a requirement that meet volunteers, such as timers, read and acknowledge MAAPP before they can volunteer at a meet. However, MAAPP does apply to meet volunteers who are authorized to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes. One way to ensure that these volunteers are aware of the MAAPP requirements is to include the expectations in meet briefings or meet information, or verbally highlighting the expectations for volunteers.

Q: Does MAAPP apply to meet volunteers at all times?

A: Meet volunteers must follow MAAPP during the time that they trigger Applicable Adult status. For example, if a meet volunteer is authorized to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes during one morning session at the meet but does not volunteer at any other point in the meet, that individual is an Applicable Adult during the one morning session.

Q: Are LSCs required to put information about MAAPP in their meet information?

A: No. There is no requirement to provide information about MAAPP in meet information. This language is provided by USA Swimming as a helpful suggestion to give notice to those involved with the meet on the application of MAAPP to involvement in the meet. Including this language in meet information creates consistent messaging of the importance of MAAPP and reinforces the rules to Applicable Adults.

Q: Are all adults that use a shared facility (which is also used by a member club for purposes of practice or competition) considered Applicable Adults?

A: No. An individual is an Applicable Adult if he or she meets any of the four descriptions of an Applicable Adult, so an adult member of the general public may be “Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete.” However, we would not consider an adult member of the general public who only has contact with a minor athlete by virtue of being at the same shared facility to meet this standard and be considered an Applicable Adult.