**Terms and Conditions for Participation**

**in the Valparaiso Swim Club**

By registering your child(ren) with the **Valparaiso Swim Club**, you are entering a new family!

Our seasoned parents, board members and swimmers are here to help guide you!  As always, if you should have issues or problems that need special attention, please contact the Head Coach directly -before or after practice- or by email.

We are here to help!

Participation Agreement

You agree to participate (or allow my child(ren) and family members to participate) in the **Valparaiso Swim Club**, and hereby release **Valparaiso Swim Club**, its directors, officers, agents, coaches, and employees from liability for any injury that might occur to myself (or to my child(ren) and family members) while participating in the **Valparaiso Swim Club** program, including travel to and from training sessions, swim meets or other scheduled team activities.  
  
I agree to indemnify and hold harmless the above mentioned organizations and/or individuals, their agents and/or employees, against any and all liability for personal injury, including injuries resulting in death to me, my child(ren) and/or other family members, or damage to my property, the property to my child(ren) and/or other family members, or both, while I (or my child(ren) or family members) participating in the **Valparaiso Swim Club** program.

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**in the Valparaiso Swim Club**

1. You are committing to join the Valparaiso Swim Club **for the  2016-17 FALL SEASON in FULL.**Valpo Swim Club does not prorate seasonal participation.
2. Should a swimmer decide to discontinue participation in the Swim Club, **the HEAD COACH must be notified in writing** and the unused portion of the season training dues are **not refundable** and any outstanding entry fees are considered an obligation to the VSC and are payable upon termination of participation, including meet /relay fees. VSC does not prorate membership fees.
3. Registration dues are to be paid at the Beginning of the Season. Payment in Full or Thirds is expected. If your account balance is outstanding from last season- this must be cleared before your swimmer can enter the water for the NEW season.
4. All Accounts need to be paid on time and kept up to date monthly, or a $30 late fee will be assessed after the 15th of the month, and your swimmer will be blocked from signing up for future meets. Once your account is current the restriction will be lifted.
5. Any checks returned to the VSC for Non-Sufficient funds will be subject to a $35.00 additional fee.
6. USA Swimming registration fee is not refundable and must be paid prior to the swimmer entering the water. This is for athlete insurance.
7. Meet entry fees: There are fees for events that your swimmer selects at competitions, the cost varies by meet. VSC also adds a minimum $5 per meet/per swimmer to offset coaching registration/coaching costs for meets. These fees, including relays- and any spiritwear items can be billed monthly to your account.
8. ALL VSC swimmers are required to participate at their highest level of achievement in the championship meets (including relays).
9. All swimmers COMPETING for VSC must purchase a team suit or a black and green suit, and cap and have at least one team shirt. The second year it is suggested the swimmer purchase warmups and gear bag, All VSC athletes are expected to wear team apparel during competition.
10. I understand and agree to the above terms and conditions of the VALPARAISO SWIM CLUB in exchange for the privilege of my child, registered with this form, to participate in the activities and swimming program of VSC.

**VALPO SWIM CLUB ----- TEAM MEMBER HONOR CODE**

2016-2017 FALL /WINTER SEASON

The following code is in effect throughout the year, some of the items refer specifically to team/family travel.

Additionally, anyone who, in the opinion of the coach or coaches, acts in a manner that would interfere with the travel objectives listed below, will be subject to immediate return home (at the expense of the parent and/or swimmer) and other punishments including barring from future travel meets or other competition, suspension from practice, or dismissal from the team.

1. All VSC team/family members should be respectful of their peers, coaches, and parents. Any VSC team member not acting in such a manner will be asked to change or stop that behavior. If that team member fails to comply, they will be asked to leave and disciplinary procedures will follow.

2. VSC will travel as a team and as individual families in order to compete with the best and further strive to better competition. Everyone is expected to behave in an exemplary manner. The reputation of VALPO, as well as the other athletes with you, is dependent on your behavior.

3. The coaching staff holds the final word on any rules, regulations, or disciplinary action.

4. The consumption or purchase of alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco, or use of any other illegal drug or USOC banned substance of any kind will not be allowed. In addition, any team member found or suspected to be in the presence of others (regardless of team affiliation) partaking in any of the above activities will be subject to the same punishments and probable expulsion from VSC. Any swimmer suspected of such activity will appear before a review committee.

5. At no times will male and female athletes be in the same room together unless a coach or chaperone is in the room or has approved the situation. This applies to VSC team members or members of any other team.

6. No team meetings may be missed. Be punctual to all meetings and warm-up times.

7. Team Overnight Trips: No team member may be out of their room after the assigned bed time. Permission must be obtained from the coach to leave the room past this time.

8. Team Overnight Trips: Any damages or thievery incurred at a hotel will be at the expense of the swimmers assigned to that room, and further disciplinary action will be taken. No loud or boisterous behavior will be tolerated in the hallways or public areas, and such behavior should be kept to a minimum in your rooms. Make all long distance calls on a credit card or collect.

9. All team members will be polite in restaurants. Leave at least a 15% tip. If there has been a problem with the service, see the coach.

10. All team members must agree to follow the rules about practice and meet behavior.

11. All VSC team members agree to follow electronics rule with cell phone and camera usage. (This includes, but is not limited to, NO CELL PHONE USAGE IN LOCKER ROOMS OR BATHROOMS) No inappropriate usage will be tolerated nor explicit images.

**Valparaiso Swim Club Athlete Disciplinary Procedure**

The below is the process we use when behavior spins out of control. The coaches at VSC do everything we can to help talk things out between swimmers and redirect minor issues. Our kids are learning and growing human beings and we are here to help them grow to be well rounded individuals. Helping them learn to cope as a team is part of our job, and we strive to help everyone as best as we can before going into any discipline plan.

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This Disciplinary Code shall apply to all objectionable behavior occurring during or at an activity or function that is associated with the VSC including but not limited to: swim practice, swim meets, team trips, team outings, online forums, or individual group outings and addresses objectionable behavior by members of Valparaiso Swim Club occurring outside of club activities.

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The types of objectionable behavior shall be

divided into 3 classifications:

**Class 1:**

Shall deal with behavior that is somewhat disruptive; does not portray the Valparaiso Swim Club in a good light; and other actions that are not in compliance for good behavior as a member of a team or society in general.

**Examples:**

Include, but are not limited to: minor vandalism, being disruptive in practices or meets, abusive language or behavior, insubordination to members of the coaching staff, chaperones, or others, littering, other acts of misconduct as determined by the coaching staff.

**Disciplinary Procedure:**

Generally handled by the Coaching staff (Parents will be involved if the discipline will result in a suspension). The parent/guardian will be notified of his/her child’s suspension and a hearing will be convened during the suspension period.

**Recommended Discipline:**

As determined by the coaching staff. Generally the coaches will endeavor to apply the following progressive discipline for general misbehavior:

The swimmer will be warned by the coach as to what he/she is doing wrong and be requested to stop.

If after being warned, the swimmer continues to misbehave, he/she will be removed from the pool for a period of 15 minutes.

If the misbehavior continues, the swimmer will be dismissed from that practice and escorted to a telephone to call home. The swimmer must then wait poolside until their ride arrives.

If the misbehavior continues, the swimmer will be dismissed from that practice and escorted to a telephone to call home. The swimmer must then wait poolside until their ride arrives.

Dismissal from a second practice will result in an immediate one week suspension, during which time a hearing will be convened with the board.

In some cases behavior may be deemed too severe to apply the progressive approach and the coach may move immediately to a one week suspension and hearing with the board.

The parent/guardian will be notified of his/her child’s suspension and a hearing will be convened during the suspension period. The Hearing will take place before a quorum of the Board of Directors with Parent/Guardian and swimmer being given the opportunity to present.  The facts shall be presented by the Board President or his/her designee. The Head Coach shall be present in an advisory role.

**Class 2**

Shall deal with behavior that is considered disruptive; having a detrimental effect on one’s self, other members of the team, or the general public; causes significant damage to the reputation of the club and/or their coaches; leading to the possible injury of self or other persons.

Class 2 violations will be met with immediate suspension pending a board hearing. The parent/guardian will be notified of his/her child’s suspension and a hearing will be convened during the suspension period. The Hearing will take place before a quorum of the Board of Directors with Parent/Guardian and swimmer being given the opportunity to present. The facts shall be presented by the Board President or his/her designee. The Head Coach shall be present in an advisory role. Further and ongoing punishment will be decided on by the board. Parents will be notifies within one week.

**Examples:**

Include, but not limited to: Possession or use of illegal drugs, alcohol, or tobacco, theft, significant vandalism, bullying or repeated Class 1 suspensions.

**Recommended Discipline:**

1st Offense… Suspension\* from the team for a minimum period of thirty (30) days of the swimmer’s season (these days may extend into the swimmers next season, if needed).

2nd Offense - Suspension\* from the team for a minimum period of sixty (60) days of the swimmers season (these days may extend into the swimmers next season, if needed).

3rd Offense….Shall be considered a violation of Class I Objectionable Behavior and handled according to the disciplinary proceedings of Class I Objectionable Behavior.

Terms of suspension shall be spelled by the Board of Directors and must be adhered to by the swimmer/parents in order to be reinstated by the Committee at the end of the suspension period. During the periods of suspension, swimmers remain a member of VSC and thereby all dues and fees are still due in full from the swimmer. The swimmer cannot be reinstated until any fees and/or dues that are in arrears are paid in full. Additionally, during periods of suspension, all work session requirements remain the responsibility of the swimmer and any missed session will be charged in accordance with the then current fee schedule.

**Class 3:**

Shall deal with the behavior that is considered very severe and disruptive, possibly life threatening and/or in direct violation of governmental laws. These are actions that are so detrimental that it is not desirable to have such a person associated with the team.

Class 3 violations will be met with immediate suspension pending a board hearing. The parent/guardian will be notified of his/her child’s suspension and a hearing will be convened during the suspension period. The Hearing will take place before a quorum of the Board of Directors with Parent/Guardian and swimmer being given the opportunity to present. The facts shall be presented by the Board President or his/her designee. The Head Coach shall be present in an advisory role. Further and ongoing punishment will be decided on by the board. Parents will be notifies within one week.

**Examples**:

Include, but not limited to: Sale or distribution of illegal drugs; conviction of felony and fighting that results in the severe bodily injury of any person (regardless whether at a club activity or not).

**Recommended Discipline:**

May result in expulsion from the team and forfeiture of any monies paid to date.