

South Jersey Aquatic Club USA Swimming Safe Sport Program: Complaint Process

USA Swimming and the South Jersey Aquatic Club are committed to fostering a fun, healthy, and safe environment for all its members. In 2010, USA Swimming formally implemented a comprehensive Safe Sport program to respond to and prevent instances of abuse and misconduct within the sport of swimming.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

USA Swimming Rule 306.1 states that "It is every member's responsibility to promptly report any incident regarding sexual misconduct by a member as described in Article 304.3.8 to USA Swimming's Director of Safe Sport. Reporting must occur when an individual has firsthand knowledge of misconduct or where specific and credible information has been received from a victim or knowledgeable third party.

Additionally, in New Jersey, any person having reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or acts of abuse should immediately report this information to the State Central Registry. A concerned caller does not need proof to report an allegation of child abuse and can make the report anonymously.

What should I do if a child tells me that they have been sexually abused?

How an adult responds to a child when they try to disclose abuse can influence the outcome of the child's experience of victimization and following healing. By maintaining an apparent calm, the adult can help reassure the child that everything is going to be okay. By not criticizing the child, we counteract any statements the abuser made to the victim about the child getting into trouble. Reassure the child that you are concerned about what happened to them and that you would like to get them some help. Allegations by a swimmer concerning abuse in the program should be reported to the SJAC Head Coach and to the State Central Registry of New Jersey. Since these reports are required, the child should be told that you have to tell the proper authorities in order to keep them safe but that you will not tell anyone else.

What steps are taken when a report of child abuse by a South Jersey Aquatic Club staff member are made?

Immediately, if it has not already been done, the SJAC Head Coach will contact State Central Registry of New Jersey and the USA Swimming Child Protection Officer to report the claims. It is the responsibility of state and local authorities to lead the investigation and South Jersey Aquatic Club staff will do everything possible to aid in the investigation. Immediately, the employee in question will be placed on administrative leave while an investigation is conducted.