

## Safe Sport Chair Report

June 2019 Board Meeting

### MAAPP

Each club should have received information regarding the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy by now. While the document goes in to effect on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, clubs should begin adopting policies as soon as possible in order to be compliant by that date.

The [MAAPP page](#) on USA Swimming's website is a good resource. It includes FAQ documents on many of the key points, as well as interpretations of the policies. They have also begun to include sample permission forms relating to MAAPP. I'll be developing a similar document for our website with questions from within our LSC. At the Workshop in Chicago we were able to spend 2 days dissecting MAAPP with a representative from USA Swimming's Safe Sport office. They have acknowledged that many of the policies are open to interpretation and that they are working to provide documents that will provide clarification.

One question that has come up multiple times so far is, "If I am a coach and an employer to a swimmer, do I need to follow MAAPP guidelines when communication to the swimmer about his/her job?"

*If you are communicating with an employee, who is a minor, you are wearing your employee hat and should follow your employer's guidelines regarding electronic communication. If you are communicating about swimming directly to one athlete, the swimmer's guardian must be copied on the communication. If you are sending a group text or email (more than 1 minor athlete), at least one other adult (not necessarily a guardian) needs to be copied. To stay on the safe side, if the employee is also a swimmer of yours you should probably include a guardian (unless it's a group text). If the employee is a swimmer, but not affiliated with your team (you are not in a position of power over that "athlete") you are probably OK with just including another adult (Aquatic Director) on the communication.*

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions regarding MAAPP. If I don't have the answers I will reach out to USA Swimming and get them. By creating a FAQ document for our LSC we can help one another become better informed about these policies.

A reminder of what MUST be done by June 23:

- your club policies must include MAAPP in addition to your existing code of conduct. This policy supersedes your current electronic communication, travel, social media, locker room, massage, and one-on-one interaction policies.
- 18+ athletes must take the Athlete Protection training or they will not be permitted to compete. Going forward, athletes will receive an email about 30 days before they turn 18 reminding them to do the training, and they will have a true 30 day grace period after their birthdays to get it done, but anyone who is now 18+ or will be 18 by June 23 will not have that grace period.

Respectfully Submitted,

Matt Montgomery