**Upper Merion Marlins Parents Code of Conduct**

Just as we expect our coaches to display and teach our children sportsmanship in and out of the pool, we expect the same from our swimmers/divers' parents. In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, skill development, and mutual respect among swimmers, divers, coaches, parents, officials and spectators are the primary considerations governing competition in the Suburban Aquatic League and in the Upper Merion Aquatic Club, the following code of conduct has been established and adopted by the UMAC Board. We have a Zero Tolerance policy; violations of this code will result in the offender being asked to leave the premises immediately, and repeated violations will result in swimmers/divers being denied future participation in the team. No refunds will be given in this instance.

By signing (checking the box) you acknowledge that you have read the Code of Conduct below, and that you understand and agree to abide by these expectations of you as a Marlin Parent.

**As a UMAC parent, I understand and acknowledge the following principles of our team:**

**1. Coaches are people with expertise and integrity who have been hired on this basis to coach the team. Coaching is their job, not that of the parents. Therefore, I promise to:**

**\*Refrain from “coaching” swimmers/divers from the sidelines during practices and competitions.**

**\*Understand that private discussions with a coach about my swimmer/diver are the proper venue for raising questions or concerns about my swimmer/diver’s progress. Such discussions should be scheduled in advance with the coaches, so that they do not interfere with practices.**

**\*Stay off deck during practices.**

**\*Stay off deck during meets, unless I am working an on-deck volunteer job.**

**\*Remain positive in my public comments about coaches, swimmers, divers, and other parents.**

**2. It is the role of parents to support the team, including swimmers, divers, other parents, and coaches, during practices and meets. Therefore, I promise to:**

* **Refrain from addressing other swimmers/divers in a negative manner.**
* **Refrain from discussing other swimmers/divers in a negative manner in the presence of other swimmers/divers.**
* **Refrain from using inappropriate language or negative personal remarks directed at coaches, swimmers, divers, the opposing team or meet officials, during practices and meets.**
* **Refrain from creating disturbances which are detrimental to the team or to individual swimmers/divers during practices and meets.**
* **Support all swimmers/divers on the team in an encouraging manner at all times.**
* **Perform my assigned volunteer jobs to the best of my ability**
* **Support parent volunteers at all meets and other events, including those who are officiating at a meet.**

**3. As parents, we are also role models for our children. Therefore, I promise to:**

* **Cheer for my team in a positive, supportive manner ONLY, refraining at all times from making hostile, negative or abusive remarks directed to coaches, swimmers, divers, the opposing team or officials.**
* **Demonstrate appropriate gestures of sportsmanship at the conclusion of an event and at the conclusion of a meet, win or lose.**
* **Realize, accept and practice the principles that a team's reputation is built not only on its swimming/diving ability, but also on the sportsmanship, courtesy, and citizenship demonstrated by its fans and team members.**

We value integrity and fairness. We will uphold the rules of fair play and provide opportunities for all to participate. We will encourage team spirit and group and individual sportsmanship. We will deal fairly and honestly with each other and with our athletes in all that we do.