

Safe Sport News:

USA Swimming Members of North Texas,

USA Swimming has recently sent a letter to its members explaining the new Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP). The letter was dated April 29th, 2019 and was sent from Tim Hinchey and Bob Vincent. The letter explains the MAAPP policy and the effective date that it should be implemented (6/23/19). Take a few moments and read the letter as well as read the entire MAAPP policy itself. Some items may need to be addressed very quickly. Please pay particular attention to the definition of "Applicable Adult". If you are a registered member of USA swimming, I need you to take a moment and read the entire policy as it pertains to all USA swimming members. I have taken the liberty of hitting some important highlights:

1. **Applicable Adult:** MAAPP pertains to all adult members both athlete and non-athlete. "Applicable Adult" pertains to anyone over the age of 18. This means that all adult athletes (18 and older) need to have the Athlete Protection Training (APT) by June 23rd, 2019 to be eligible to be on deck. The appropriate APT training for these athletes is the same training that coaches and officials must take. All athletes that turn 18 after this date will still need to take the training once they hit their 18th birthday. This does not mean that every timer needs to do APT. However, they do need to be aware of the policy and what it states.
2. **One-to-one interactions:** Interactions with an applicable adult and minor should be observable and interruptible. Please read this section carefully.
3. **Communications with minors:** Applicable adults should be open and transparent in all forms of communication through electronic means with minors. All applicable adults must copy the parents or legal guardians of the minor. This policy pertains to all forms of electronic communication including email, texting, or any other electronic means of communication. In addition, the hours of communication must be between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, unless there is an emergency.

Of course, there is more to the policy so please read the policy carefully as it will go into effect on June 23rd. If you have any questions please contact me (email is best for me), Safe Sport Chair for North Texas Swimming or Elizabeth Hahn, Safe Sport Senior Manager (contacts below).

Thank You,

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Safe Sport Chair NT Swimming

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