**See Something… Say Something!**

Parents,

  PLEASE read this email with your swimmer if you would. It concerns USAS’ Safe Sport mantra… SEE SOMETHIING, SAY SOMETHING. I’ve tried to keep this short to ensure that you all do, indeed, read this.

***USA Swimming, Ohio Swimming & GCSTO all are involved in maintaining the safest environment possible when it comes to the health and welfare of our members and their families. We are all committed to fostering a fun, healthy and safe sport environment for all our members. The USA Swimming Safe Sport Program raises awareness about misconduct in sport, promotes open dialogue on the subject, provides training/resources and in ALL of this tries to help ensure that health and welfare of everyone that is associated with USA Swimming in any way. This means that we not only wish to protect our members from potential misconduct coming from another source but also from potential misconduct coming from themselves.***

In relation to an athlete, long story short, if we feel an athlete’s health and welfare is endangered we are obligated to take steps to try and safeguard that athlete regardless of where that endangerment comes from… an outside source, another USAS member or themselves. As coaches and administrators we cannot do this alone and, as such, the mantra “See Something, Say Something” has been adopted for all members to follow.

**I’ve simplified this just to try and ensure this is clear:**

1 - If you *see something* that you feel is not conducive to maintaining a safe and healthy environment **for everyone** we ask you to *say something*.

2 - If you *see something* in an individual ‘s actions that may jeopardize the safety and welfare **of someone else** we ask you to *say something.*

3 - If you *see something* in an individual ‘s actions that may jeopardize **their own** safety and welfare we ask you to *say something.*

**This should be no different in school, in the workplace, social groups and such. The KEY is to knowing how to handle this correctly for any instance that cannot be handled directly between parties involved themselves is:**

1 – Immediately report your concerns to the appropriate authority figure. In school you may be told to seek out a counselor or a school administrator. At work you may be told to seek out the HR Department or a superior and so on.

2 – Here on the team, you should seek out your coach. If they feel that they cannot handle the issue or if you feel that they are not the one to go to then you should contact me as the head coach of the team.

3 – In our (GCSTO’s) case I have several resources to turn to myself. I first can turn to Ohio Swimming, Inc.’s (OSI) Safe Sport Committee and we both can, in turn, then go to USA Swimming’s Safe Sport Committee if needed.

**What should NOT be done in such cases that cannot be handled directly between parties involved themselves is:**

1 – Discussing the issue openly amongst one another as athletes. Go to your parents first or bring your concern straight to a coaching staff member. We realize that you are growing young athletes and sometimes consult one another for experience in certain areas but please try to bring it directly to your parents or coaches attention and do what you can to minimize such athlete amongst athlete involvement.

2 – Discussing the issue openly amongst one another as parents. Please bring your concern straight to a coaching staff member. We realize that you are adults and sometimes consult one another for experience in certain areas but please try to bring it directly to a coaches attention and do what you can to minimize athlete and additional parental involvement.

3 – If athletes must be involved for whatever reason, please emphasize the importance of keeping all information confidential. Please emphasize the importance of keeping such things off of electronic media.

There are potential ramifications for us all in relation to such matters. Athletes, coaches, administrators and such found guilty of misconduct may be suspended from the team or from USAS or even have membership terminated. Remember that misconduct has a wide scope inclusive of false accusations against another USAS member.

**USA SWIMMING’S CODE OF CONDUCT IS WHAT WE FOLLOW HERE ON GCSTO:** To see a copy of that Code of Conduct please click here: <http://www.usaswimming.org/ViewMiscArticle.aspx?TabId=1599&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en&mid=6074&ItemId=5773>

***Again, “See Something, Say Something”. Don’t wait to act and act according to proper channels.*** If you need to contact me about anything please do so through phone call, email or private meeting.

Thanks!

**Steven A. Nye**

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More about Ohio Swimming’s Safe Sport Program can be found here: <https://www.teamunify.com/TabGeneric.jsp?_tabid_=82056&team=czohlsc>

More about USA Swimming’s Safe Sport Program can be found here: <http://www.usaswimming.org/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabId=2728&Alias=Rainbow&Lang=en>