



## **MULTI-USE LOCKER ROOM POLICY**

### **PURPOSE**

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

### **FACILITIES**

Queen City Dolphins practices at the Mecklenburg County Aquatics Center. This location is a multi-use facility and have changing areas that are shared with the general public and/or coaches and parents. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with Queen City Dolphins in the changing area around the time of practices, lessons and meets.

### **MONITORING**

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

We discourage parents from entering the locker rooms even in multi-use situations unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent entering the locker room. If this is necessary, the parent should not delay in the locker room. If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then the same-sex parent may enter to help the athlete but not delay in the locker room.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

If the parent who needs to assist the athlete is not same-sex as the child who is over the age of 5 and there are no family changing areas available at the facility, the parent needs to speak with a coach or head lifeguard about clearing the locker room for the sex of the parent to assist their child in the locker room. If family changing areas are available, the opposite-sex parent and child shall use the family changing area.

Coaches and staff may need to enter the multi-use locker rooms during practice times, lessons, and meets while athletes are in the locker rooms. In these situations, coaches and staff will not delay in the locker room and will not interact with the athletes while in the locker room. Queen City Dolphins has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over

this extended course of time. While we do not post [staff, coach, parent, other adult] inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. [Staff, coach, parent, other adult] conduct these sweeps, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms.

## **USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES**

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room or other changing area:

*305.3 Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.*

### **Locker Room Misconduct and Policy Violations**

If swimmers are in violation of the policy or engage in misconduct in the locker room, the staff who learned about the incident will follow the club's grievance policy and reporting guidelines. Any swimmer in violation of the policy is subject to suspension from locker room usage.

- For matters involving sexual misconduct, the coach will immediately report the incident to the Center for Safe Sport. After the matter is reported, the staff will reach out to the club's Executive Director to ensure proper safety planning is in place.

- All other matters will be reported to the club's Head Coach and investigated accordingly to understand the full nature of the matter. The Head Coach will engage the Executive Director and/or leadership team as needed to assign appropriate consequences and next steps.