

Sun Prairie Piranhas Parent Code of Conduct

As a member of the Sun Prairie Piranhas (Piranhas), I am part of a swimming organization that believes teamwork, integrity, respect and good sportsmanship are more important than winning. By signing this Code of Conduct, I agree to follow the rules for behavior and sportsmanship while I am a member of the Piranhas. The following behavior guidelines state the principles Piranhas expects all members to demonstrate and uphold.

Sun Prairie Piranhas is fortunate to have experienced, professional coaches working to develop our children into better swimmers, and more importantly, teaching and instilling important life skills. These skills include time management, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. Your child will reap the benefits of swimming long after his/her competitive career ends.

As parents, it is absolutely essential that we give our coaching staff the respect and authority they deserve to run our swim team. Our coaches are hired for that purpose and the Head Coach oversees the direction of the staff.

Part One: Parents Code of Conduct

- Set the right example for our children by showing respect and common courtesies at all times to the team members, coaches, competitors, officials, parents, pool & meet staff, and for all facilities and other property used during practice or competition.
- Respect the integrity of swim officials by assuming decisions are based on honest, objective evaluations of performance. Only coaches may approach meet officials for clarification of rulings.
- Understand that opposing teams, including their swimmers, coaches, and fans, want the same positive experiences for their swimmers as we do. Help Piranhas achieve our goals by avoiding criticism either verbally or by gesture. Look for opportunities to build rapport with teams that we compete and work with.
- Demonstrate good sportsmanship during all practices, competitions and team activities. Promote good sportsmanship by setting an example and by helping others to do likewise. Piranhas swimmers win gracefully, lose graciously, and congratulate their opponents either way.
- Be an active participant in all fundraising events and other team activities and encourage and support your child by permitting them to be timely for practices, competitions, and events.
- Realize that swimmers become easily confused when coached by parents and benefit most from positive reinforcement of the professional coaching staff's instructions and advice. Your unconditional love and support before and after races will help them best.



- Recognize that Piranhas coaches are professionals and allow them to coach your child without interference during workouts and meets, including not being present on deck during practice or competitions unless you are working at the meet.
- Support your professional coaches as they strive to do what is best for each Piranhas swimmer. Our expectations and methods are based on USA Swimming, the American Swim Coaches Association and other recognized swimming authorities.
- If you have concerns, you will address it with the head coach in private.
- Maintain open and honest communication among all members of the Piranhas family. We reach our common goals by working together.
- Insist that your child refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, drugs, other prohibited substances, violence, abusive or foul language, inappropriate sexual conduct, or any other behavior deemed dishonest, discourteous, offensive or disrespectful of others.

Part Two: Parent Responsibilities

- Supervision of any swimmer other than when they are swimming is the responsibility of the parent or designated guardian during all meets from the time the swimmer arrives on site until the completion of the meet.
- Assist the coaches in conducting effective practices by ensuring swimmers arrive and leave on time, and bring the proper equipment.
- Arrive at the busses or meets at the recommended “Get There” time
- Represent the Sun Prairie Piranhas with excellence, respect, team spirit, good sportsmanship, and politeness
- Maintain self-control at all times. Refrain from inappropriate behavior that detracts from a positive image of the team or is detrimental to our performance objectives.
- Know your role. Swimmers - Swim / Coaches - Coach / Officials - Officiate / Parents - Parent
- Call or meet with coaches during normal business hours before or after practice/meets to discuss issues.
- Do not coach your child at practice or during meets, that is the coach’s job.
- Assist the coaches by not talking with or motioning to swimmers during practices unless clearing it with a coach first.
- Do not interrupt or confront the coaching staff on the pool deck during practice or meets.
- Trust and support your swimmer’s and coach’s decisions around goal-setting, training commitments, swim event entries, and meet schedules. Do not impose your ambitions on your child.
- Any questions about disqualifications, judging, etc should be directed to your swimmer’s coach.
- Get involved....be an official, work on the board, help plan a fundraiser, help plan a group social. Find something you enjoy!
- Share the burden among parents by volunteering to help at meets.
- Pay your fees on time.



- Know and uphold Sun Prairie Piranhas rules, regulations, policies, and by-laws that are designed to maximize the experience for all swimmers and parents.

Part Three: Consequences

The consequences for violation of the Code of Conduct are left to the discretion of the Board of Directors, the Recreation Director for the city of Sun Prairie, and/or Presidents, based on the circumstances present, with the intent that the consequence is tailored to address both the severity and frequency of the parent's violation(s). It is anticipated that violations will be addressed as follows, in the progression noted:

1. Phone call from one of the team presidents and/or the Recreation Director for the city of Sun Prairie;
2. Face-to-face meeting with executive board and the Recreation Director for the city of Sun Prairie with a written warning;
3. Parent suspended from team events.* Suspension may range from one week up to one month and includes suspension from attending practices, meets, and other team events;
4. Parent, and possibly the parent's swimmer, shall be expelled.* Expulsion may range from 1 season up to indefinite ban from the team, and includes being banned from practices, meets, and other team events.

In the event of egregious or aggravated violations, the Board, the Recreation Director for the city of Sun Prairie, or Presidents may escalate the consequence to tailor it to the conduct, rather than following the anticipated series of consequences. In the event of an aggravated or egregious violation while at a team event that is causing a disturbance at the event, the most senior executive/board member, or if none present then the coach, may demand that the violating parent immediately leave the event. In the event a parent refuses to cooperate, the executive/board member or coach shall contact local authorities to address the disturbance.

*Final decision for suspension/expulsion will be the decision of board of directors. Infractions deemed aggravated or egregious may result in parent and swimmer being expelled from the team. Example of an aggravated or egregious infraction: On-deck altercation with coach, official, parent, or swimmer. If offenses are deemed unlawful, then the proper authorities will be contacted.

I understand and will abide by the parent code of conduct.

Parent/Guardian #1 Signature _____

Parent/Guardian #2 Signature _____

Swimmers under your care: _____

Date: _____

