



## **SCSC Parent Code of Conduct**

Parents participating on the South Carolina Swim Club agree to abide by the standards of conduct outlined below in the Parent Code of Conduct, in addition to those established within the Team Handbook and SCSC Safe Sport Policy. This applies for the short course, long course, and open water seasons. These documents are available on the SCSC website for your review throughout the season.

Your role is to provide love, recognition and enthusiasm while making sure your swimmer regularly attends practices and meets. Praise their effort and reinforce that swimming should be fun. Parents are encouraged to avoid comparing the skill, courage, determination, attitude, performance, or improvement of your child(ren) to other swimmers. Kids mature physiologically and psychologically at different ages; the weakest swimmer in a practice group this year could be leading practices in the future. Most athletes will go through challenging phases that require patience and perseverance. Trust your coaches and support your swimmer with a positive attitude and lots of encouragement.

Gossip is a destructive force in our environment, and it can undermine productivity and morale. Gossip is defined in two ways: a) as any conversation about another in which you do not have first-hand knowledge and/or which you and the other party cannot affect the outcome, and b) the intentional discussion of another without the benefit of their presence. Discussions and comments involving a team member are to be limited to their presence. The only exceptions are the occasions when the information about the team member being shared is of a completely positive nature. SCSC is committed to building a positive environment for all participants.

During posted practice hours, coaches are unavailable for any discussion. Before or after practices are the only times they will be available. Please refrain from approaching them on deck during practice hours. E-mail is the preferred form of correspondence.

Family members are allowed to observe practices; however, they must remain on the bleachers or outside the facilities. No parents are allowed to be on the pool deck, other than these specified areas.

Photography/filming by any parent, be it their child or another swimmer, will not be allowed during practice times. This is to comply with USA Swimming policies and the SCSC Safe Sport Policy.

Parents are expected to act in a sportsmanlike manner to families on the team, as well as those on other teams.

The following are strictly prohibited by SCSC parents at team functions (practices, banquets, meets, travel trips and any other team-sponsored activities):

- Cursing, swearing, racial or sexual remarks, or any other form of verbal abuse.
- Consuming alcoholic and/or illegal substances..
- Fighting or any other form of physical abuse.
- Any inappropriate physical contact.
- Use or possession of any weapon.

It is the responsibility of the parents to have their swimmer at the practice/meet facility 15 minutes prior to start/warm-up so their child is prepared to hop in the water on time.

When staying at a team hotel, parents are responsible for their child's behavior. There should be no running down hallways, door-slamming, or yelling in the rooms.

Parents should provide, to the best of their ability, a nutritional environment to help their swimmer(s) achieve their greatest potential.

Upon failure to adhere to the SCSC Parent Code of Conduct, you will be requested to leave the function with your swimmer(s), forfeiting all funds.

### **Parent-Organization Support**

Be a G.R.E.A.T. SCSC parent!

G - Get Involved! Volunteer to do more than just be a timer at meets.

R - Read the Emails! Emails will come from coaches, the business/billing office, Competitive team manager, the webmaster and others. They wouldn't be emailing if it wasn't important for parents to know!

E - Educate Yourself. Ask questions. Make friends with other parents. Use the substantial online resources available to you.

A - Attend meetings and ask questions. Coaches meetings, parent meetings, parent coffees, Parent your Best presentations, college information meetings, volunteer committee meetings.

T - Think fun and be positive! Your child will enjoy the sport so much more if it is fun! Yes, they will lose their goggles three times in the first two months, and yes, there will be moments when they are frustrated or tired, but if you do all you can as a parent to make it fun you will ALL have a better time!

Joining a large organization can be awesome, but it can be a bit overwhelming too! Do you have questions or are you new to the area and would like to talk with a veteran swim parent? Please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing your lead coach. If they don't have the answer, they will send you in the right direction.