



## **Drug, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy**

### **South Carolina Swim Club Philosophy**

The use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, and tobacco poses a risk to the health and safety of young people. In addition to this risk, the possession or use of drugs or alcohol can have serious legal consequences for youth. South Carolina Swim Club (SCSC) is a high quality, competitive youth swimming organization committed to excellence at all levels. The club strives to instill in its swimmers a commitment to abstain from the ill use of drugs and alcohol and the use of tobacco products. SCSC maintains a wholesome and safe environment in which swimmers can develop their athletic potential and grow into mature young adults. Thus, SCSC has adopted the following policies concerning drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products.

### **Team Rules Concerning Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco**

- a. SCSC swimmers shall not possess, use, or be under the influence of alcohol while on the club premises or during a team event.
- b. SCSC swimmers shall not possess or use controlled substances on the club premises unless it has been prescribed for the swimmer by a physician and is in the original container with the prescription label attached. The definition of a "controlled substance" herein is any drug for which a prescription is required.
- c. SCSC swimmers shall not use, possess, be under the influence of, or distribute to another person any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia. "Drug paraphernalia" is defined as any device designed or used for the purpose of introducing a drug into the body. Examples include rolling papers, bongs, and crack pipes. "Illegal drug" means any drug, which is illegal under the laws of the State of South Carolina and drug or substance, which is banned by USA Swimming, the United States Anti-Doping Agency, the International Olympic Committee, or the World Anti-Doping Agency. Examples of illegal drugs include marijuana, cocaine, steroids, and other performance enhancing drugs (PEDs). This prohibition shall apply at all times.
- d. If it is discovered that a SCSC swimmer is in possession of, using, or distributing illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol, or tobacco, a parent or legal guardian of the swimmer will be notified immediately.
- e. A "team event" includes any swim meet, team travel trip, or other event or activity in which the swimmer participates as a member of SCSC. "SCSC premises" includes any facility owned, leased, or used by SCSC for a meet, practice, or any other club-sponsored event or activity.

## **Penalties and Consequences for Team Rule Violations**

- a. If the head coach determines that a swimmer has or may have violated a Team Rule, the head coach will determine the penalty/consequences for the violation after consultation with the swimmer's coach and parent or legal guardian. The penalty or consequences for a violation of the Team Rules will be at the discretion of the head coach. The penalties or consequences may include, but are not limited to one or more of the following:
  - Restriction from team trips and/or swim meets;
  - Loss of privileges;
  - Probation;
  - Suspension; or
  - Dismissal from SCSC
- b. In addition to any penalty imposed, a swimmer who is found to have violated a Team Rule relating to the use or possession of drugs or alcoholic beverages may be required, as a condition or remaining in the club, to have an assessment to determine their risk for chemical dependency.
- c. When the head coach determines a swimmer has violated a Team Rule that requires a penalty/consequence beyond counseling by the coach or designee, the head coach shall report such violation and the penalty/consequence as soon as possible to the President of the club. In those situations that call for a penalty/consequence beyond counseling by the coach or designee, the head coach shall also create and maintain a written record of the violation and penalty/consequence in each case.
- d. If a swimmer is suspended from the club, there will be no refund or abatement of dues for the period of suspension. If the swimmer is dismissed from club, the contract between SCSC and the swimmer's parent or legal guardian will terminate on the date the dismissal becomes effective. However, the parent of guardian will be liable for the dues incurred up to the effective date of the dismissal.

## **Helping Swimmers Is Our First Priority**

If a swimmer is concerned about his own involvement in drugs or alcohol or that of another swimmer, the swimmer is encouraged to talk confidentially with a coach. A swimmer who voluntarily discloses to a coach his involvement with drugs and alcohol will not be charged with a violation of the Team Rules as a result of such disclosure.

SCSC recognizes the need for sensitivity in dealing with these matters and will make every effort to ensure that confidentiality is upheld and that the privacy of those involved will be maintained and respected.

SCSC further recognizes that parents are the first and most important teachers of their children with regard to the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco products and that parents are primarily responsible for their children's behavior in these and all other matters. It is SCSCs view, however, that any behavior that tends to bring discredit to the club is a legitimate cause of concern and falls within the purview of club review.