



COAST GUARD BLUE DOLPHINS SWIM TEAM

BEST PRACTICES GUIDELINES

Purpose of these Best Practice Guidelines which are strongly recommended for all USA Swimming members is to ensure the continuation of a Safe Sport environment for our athletes and families.

1. Parents should be encouraged to appropriately support their children's swimming experience.
2. All swimming practices should be open to observation by parents.
3. Coaches should not initiate contact with or accept supervisory responsibility for athletes outside club programs and activities.
4. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, at the competition the coach and athlete should attempt to establish a "buddy" club to associate with during the competition and when away from the venue.
5. Relationships of a peer-to-peer nature with any athletes should be avoided. For example, coaches should avoid sharing their own personal problems with athletes.
6. Coaches and other non-athlete adult members should avoid horseplay and rough housing with athletes.
7. When a coach touches an athlete as part of instruction, the coach should do so in direct view of others and inform the athlete of what he/she is doing prior to the initial contact.
 - Touching athletes should be minimized outside the boundaries of what is considered normal instruction.
 - Appropriate interaction would include high fives, fist bumps, side-to-side hugs and handshakes.
8. Coaches should avoid having athletes as their favorites. They should also avoid creating a situation that could be perceived as them having favorites.
9. Gift-giving, providing special favors or showing favoritism to individual athletes is strongly discouraged.
10. Coach and parent relationships should be about the swimmer and the team. Favors and special treatment could be detrimental to team cohesion and often leads to a perception of favoritism.