



Questions & Answers for Implementing the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

Q1: Where did MAAPP originate?

A1: MAAPP is the result of a mandate by Congress to the U.S. Center for SafeSport to reduce risk areas for abuse in youth sports. The risk areas addressed by the policy are:

- One-on-One Interactions
- Social Media and Electronic Communications
- Travel
- Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
- Massages and Rubdowns

Q2: Who needs to implement MAAPP?

A2: MAAPP needs to be implemented by all sports with a National Governing Body (NGB) – basically all Olympic sports. It is not unique to USA Swimming or Virginia Swimming. USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs are required to implement this Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy in full.

Q3: What is the deadline for implementing MAAPP?

A3: June 23, 2019 and certified annually thereafter.

Q4: Does the MAAPP look the same for all sports?

A4: No, MAAPP was modified slightly by USA Swimming for the sport of swimming. The changes were approved by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and resulted in the policy that must be implemented for USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs.

Q5: Who must agree to and follow the requirements of MAAPP?

A5: Applicable Adults must agree to follow MAAPP requirements. Applicable Adults are:

- All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members (athletes aged 18 and over)
- Participating non-members (e.g. meet marshals, computer operators, timers, announcers, etc.)
- LSC and club adult staff and board members
- Any other adult authorized to have **regular contact with or authority over minor athletes**

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Q6: When am I an Applicable Adult?

A6: Once you meet any of the four descriptions of Applicable Adult listed above.

Q7: How long do I retain Applicable Adult status?

A7: An individual is an Applicable Adult for as long as one of the four descriptions applies to that individual.

Q8: What is required to show compliance with MAAPP?

A8: The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all adult athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of member clubs and LSCs on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the club or LSC. The length of retention is an open question currently. We will communicate the retention period as soon as it is known.

Q9: How does a club obtain written agreement?

A9: *To meet the June 23rd deadline:* Send an email to all adult club members, including adult athletes, with the full MAAPP policy attached. Ask them to read it and acknowledge that they agree to follow MAAPP by responding to the email. The club must retain these email responses as proof of “written” acknowledgement.

For future: Incorporate agreement to MAAPP in your annual registration process in the same way you have your members acknowledge your team’s code of conduct, such as a check box or initial a statement that says they understand and agree to MAAPP. This must be done annually and the agreement to MAAPP must be retained by the club.

Q10: Is there a template signature statement for all Applicable Adults that may be used to ensure the language used is appropriate and consistent?

A10: No, not yet. There is not a current template signature statement available. The policy can be viewed in full at: www.usaswimming.org/maapp. This is the language that is to be used as an overlay or insert into your current club policies. It cannot be edited or changed. There will be abbreviated policy language released in the coming weeks, a “script” if you will, that might be used at team events. We will communicate to you as soon as it is available.

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Q11: Who will be responsible for unattached non-athlete and unattached adult athlete members?

A11: The VSI Business Office will be responsible for unattached non-athlete and unattached adult athlete members with the LSC. The LSC office will contact unattached non-athlete and adult athlete members using a process like the clubs will use to meet the June 23rd deadline. Going forward, the LSC is plans to use a paper form.

Q12: Do non-member participants (volunteers at meets and team events) need to take APT, have a background check and become non-athlete members of USA Swimming?

A12: No! Volunteers (non-member participants) such as safety marshals, lane timers, computer operators, and announcers, will need to abide by MAAPP while volunteering at a meet or other team event. They do **NOT** need take APT, have a background check or become members of USA Swimming. They **will** need to acknowledge that they must abide by MAAPP while they are participating. The acknowledgement may be covered if they have previously responded to the club as in the case of a parent member of the club. For other non-members participants (i.e. a grandparent that is not a member of the club but helping as a lane timer), they will need to agree to follow MAAPP while they are volunteering. More information and a “script” will be coming for use with volunteers.

Q13: Are chaperones Applicable Adults?

A13: Yes, chaperones are adults authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete. They should be non-athlete members of USA Swimming as well.

Q14: What do adult athlete members (athletes age 18 and over) need to do?

A14: Adult athletes need to:

- Complete Athlete Protection Training (APT). The training you need to take is the regular Athlete Protection Training **NOT** the “free Safe Sport training for athletes”. The correct trainings can be found here: [LEARN APT](#). You must log into the LEARN platform using your name and birthdate to receive credit for the trainings. The APT training is free - just not labeled as free.
- Read and acknowledge MAAPP in writing.
- Continue to be an amazing teammate and friend to those under 18 on your club. MAAPP does **NOT** mean that you can no longer text or talk with your friends that are under 18. The **ONLY** time where MAAPP will require a change in your behavior is **IF**

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you have authority over an athlete under age 18 (i.e. you are a coach to that minor athlete). In that case, you must abide by MAAPP in your interactions with that minor athlete.

Q15: Are junior coaches Applicable Adults?

A15: Yes, junior coaches under the age of 18 are Applicable Adults to the minors they coach. They are also non-athlete members of USA Swimming. Junior coaches are perceived to be in a position of power or authority over minor athletes. As a result, junior coaches must be educated on the importance of boundaries between adults and minors. This knowledge base will be important for junior coaches who become adult coaches in future.

Q16: What are the limitations with regards to the interactions of an adult athlete and a minor athlete that is a peer (i.e. adult athlete and minor athlete in the same practice group who are close in age)?

A16: There are no limitations placed on the relationship of peers outside of club supervised events (e.g. practice, meets) **as long as the adult athlete is not a coach with authority over the minor athlete.** Outside of club or team supervised time the USA Swimming MAAPP policy does not apply and those student athletes can maintain their normal peer relationship with each other.

- **Carpooling:** They may still carpool.
- **Texting and other social media:** They may still communicate and have social media connections.
- **Locker room and the various stages of undress:** Adult athletes may still use the locker room, along with other applicable adults. They should avoid one-on-one situations and should not expose themselves. “Expose” would mean flaunting yourself around while undressed. Use common sense and modesty as a best practice.

Q17: What are the locker room expectations with regards to unrelated “Applicable Adults” in locker rooms at places such as YMCAs, where adult YMCA members (who may not be team members) share locker room facilities?

A17: MAAPP only applies to those who are Applicable Adults. The YMCA member, if not a member of the club team, is not covered under the description of Applicable Adults and is not subject to the policy.

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Q18: Will the club or LSC need to change current policies?

A18: Yes. MAAPP must be adopted in full. You should implement MAAPP in full at one time. If you have parts of MAAPP that you would like to make stringent, you may do so. You do not need to lower your expectations. You cannot make the MAAPP less stringent.

If you have any questions on the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, please contact safesportcoord@virginiawimming.org.

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