



VIRGINIA GATORS



Code of Conduct

All team members, team staff, and parents of minors are apprised in writing of this Code of Conduct and the attached USA Swimming Code of Conduct. A signature on this document constitutes unconditional agreement to comply with the stipulations of both documents.

- Team members, (swimmers, coaches and parents), will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives. Behavior that reflects poorly on the Virginia Gators will not be tolerated.
- The consumption or possession of alcohol, tobacco, or any other illegal drug or substance of any kind will not be allowed by minor swimmers or staff. In addition, any team member found to be in the presence of others partaking in any of the above activities could be subject to the same punishments and possible expulsion from the team. All members will abide by the drug and alcohol policies of USA Swimming, which can be found on the USA Swimming website.
- Theft, damage or attempted damage to the Gator Aquatic Center property, other team facilities, hotel rooms, restaurants or the personal property of others is prohibited and may be subject to disciplinary action. Any expenses incurred as a consequence of such prohibited behavior will be billed to the appropriate party.
- The possession of dangerous objects or objects banned from or considered inappropriate in a school environment is prohibited at all Virginia Gator activities, practices and functions.
- Compliance with the proper/designated dress code is mandatory. Any clothing or the inappropriate wearing of clothing or swimwear that distracts or disrupts members is prohibited. All swimmers will wear designated team caps and suits at all competitions. No “deck” suit changes are permitted. Athletes are expected to use available change facilities.
- Swimmers are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact and/or affection toward each other while participating in any Virginia Gators activity.
- Swimmers are to refrain from use of inappropriate language.
- Swimmers are to follow the rules in the team travel policy.
- Swimmers are to follow the rules on practice and meet behavior as set forth by the coaching staff.

Team members are reminded that when competing in meets, traveling on trips, and attending other meet-related functions, they are representing both themselves and the Virginia Gators. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

In addition to this document, the Virginia Gators “code of conduct” shall also include Article 304 “CODE OF CONDUCT” as set forth by USA Swimming (listed below).

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

- i. Dismissal from team trip and immediate return home at the athlete’s expense
- ii. Disqualification from one or more events, or all events of competition
- iii. Disqualification from future team travel meets
- iv. Financial penalties
- v. Suspension or dismissal from the team
- vi. Proceedings for an LSC or USA Swimming Board of Review

Swimmer _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

ARTICLE 304

CODE OF CONDUCT (EXCERPTED FROM 2013 USA SWIMMING RULEBOOK)

304.1

The mission of USA Swimming is to encourage participation and the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of Swimming. USA Swimming grants the privilege of membership to individuals and organizations committed to that mission. The privilege of membership may, therefore, be withdrawn or denied by USA Swimming at any time where USA Swimming determines that a member or prospective member's conduct is inconsistent with the mission of the organization or the best interest of the sport and those who participate in it.

In order to assist all members to better serve the interests of those who participate in swimming, USA Swimming has adopted this Code of Conduct.

304.2

Any member or prospective member of USA Swimming may be denied membership, censured, placed on probation, suspended for a definite or indefinite period of time with or without terms of probation, fined or expelled from USA Swimming if such member violates the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, set forth in 304.3, or aids, abets or encourages another person to violate any of the provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct.

304.3

The following shall be considered violations of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct:

- .1 Violation of the right to compete provisions set forth in 301.
- .2 Violation of the anti-doping provisions set forth in 303.3.
- .3 Discrimination in violation of any part of the USA Swimming Rules and Regulations or the Amateur Sports Act which requires that USA Swimming must provide: "an equal opportunity to amateur athletes; coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, or national origin."
- .4 Violation of any of the Athlete Protection Policies set forth in Article 305.
- .5 Violation of any of the Sexual Misconduct Reporting Requirements set forth in Article 306.
- .6 Conviction of, imposition of a deferred sentence for, or any plea of guilty or no contest at any time, past or present, or the existence of any pending charges, for (i) any felony, (ii) any offense involving use, possession, distribution or intent to distribute illegal drugs or substances, (iii) any crime involving sexual misconduct, or (iv) any criminal offense against a minor.
- .7 Bullying is prohibited. For the purposes of the Code of Conduct, the term "Bullying" shall mean, regardless of when or where it may occur, the severe or repeated use by one or more USA Swimming members ("Members") of an oral, written, electronic or other technological expression, image, sound, data or intelligence of any nature (regardless of the method of transmission), or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at any other Member that to a reasonably objective person has the effect of: (i) causing physical or emotional harm to the other Member or damage to the other Member's property; (ii) placing the other Member in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property; (iii) creating a hostile environment for the other member at any USA Swimming activity; (iv) infringing on the rights of the other Member at any USA Swimming activity; or (v) materially and substantially disrupting the training process or the orderly operation of any USA Swimming activity (which

for the purpose of this section shall include, without limitation, practices, workouts and other events of a member club of LSC). Allegations of Bullying of an athlete by a coach shall be investigated under 304.3.13.

.8 A Any inappropriate sexual conduct or advance, or other inappropriate oral, written, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature directed towards an athlete by (i) a coach member or other non-athlete member, or (ii) any other adult participating in any capacity whatsoever in the activities of USA Swimming (whether such adult is a member or not).

B Any act of sexual harassment, including without limitation unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate oral, written, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature in connection with or incidental to a USA Swimming-related activity by any person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming (whether such a person is a member or not) directed toward any member or other person participating in the affairs or activities of USA Swimming.

.9 The sale or distribution of illegal drugs or the illegal sale or distribution of any substance listed on FINA's recognized list of banned substances.

.10 The use of illegal drugs in the presence of an athlete, by a coach, official, trainer of, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over, that athlete.

.11 The providing of alcohol to an athlete by a coach, official, trainer, manager or any other person where the athlete is under the legal age allowed to consume or purchase alcohol in the state where the alcohol is provided.

.12 The abuse of alcohol in the presence of an athlete under the age of 18, by a coach, official, trainer of, or a person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that athlete.

.13 Abuse

A Physical abuse of an athlete by any person who, in the context of swimming, is in a position of authority over that athlete. "Physical abuse" is defined as a non-accidental injury and/or an injury primarily caused by the gross negligence on the part of the person in a position of authority over the athlete.

B Bullying of an athlete by a coach member or other non-athlete member who is in a position of authority over that athlete.

.14 Any act of fraud, deception or dishonesty in connection with any USA Swimming-related activity.

.15 Any non-consensual physical contact, obscene language or gesture, or other threatening language or conduct directed towards any meet official and which is related to any decision made by such official in connection with a USA Swimming-sanctioned competition.

.16 Action, other than through general advertising, by a coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative, or employee of a swim club, or a USA Swimming or LSC employee, either through direct contact with an athlete or the encouragement of others, to recruit or otherwise encourage an athlete who is already a member of a USA Swimming member swim club to leave that club, unless the acting party receives prior written approval to recruit or encourage the athlete to change affiliation from the designated club representative of the athlete's existing USA Swimming-member swim club or contact is initiated by the athlete, the athlete's parent or authorized representative.

General advertising includes any information that is:

A). Distributed to an identifiable general population where there is a reasonable expectation that the majority of that population are not current members of USA Swimming, or

B). Placed in or on any item that is sold.

In the event of a violation of this section, a sanction may be imposed against any coach, owner, officer, volunteer, representative or employee of a swim club, or against any such club, or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

.17 Violation of any team misconduct rule as established by the USOC, USA Swimming, any Zone or LSC team authority.

.18 Any other material and intentional act, conduct or omission not provided for above, which is detrimental to the image or reputation of USA Swimming, a LSC or the sport of swimming.