

PATRIOT AQUATIC CLUB

Locker Room Policy

PURPOSE

The following guidelines are designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.

FACILITIES

We practice at: Stevenson High School

This location has a changing area and locker room dedicated to our swimmers.

MONITORING

Primary monitoring of the locker room is done by the school officials/workers. These individuals are responsible for monitoring who enters and exits the locker room and periodical walk-throughs to make sure the area is safe and clean.

Coaches and staff make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition and if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts.

We discourage parents from entering locker rooms and changing areas unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same sex parent. If this is necessary, parents should let the coach or administrator know about this in advance.

If an athlete needs assistance with his or her uniform or gear (for example, a child under the age of eight), or an athlete's disability warrants assistance, then we ask that parents let the coach or an administrator know beforehand that he or she will be helping the athlete.

POLICY

Patriot Aquatic Club has predictable and limited use of locker rooms and changing areas (e.g., immediately before and following practices and meets). This allows for direct and regular monitoring of locker room areas. While constant monitoring inside of locker rooms and changing areas might be the most effective way to prevent problems, we understand that this would likely make swimmers uncomfortable and may even place our staff at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

We conduct a sweep of the locker rooms and changing areas before athletes arrive, post school workers directly outside of the locker rooms and changing areas during periods of use, and leave the doors open only when adequate privacy is still possible. School workers conduct regular sweeps inside locker rooms as well, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms.

USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room or other changing area:

305.3 *Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cellphone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, restrooms or locker rooms.*

REPORTING A CONCERN/MISCONDUCT

When reporting a concern and/or misconduct the athlete and/or parent should notify their coach immediately. The coach will work with the school worker who is monitoring the locker and also get school district security involved if necessary to resolve the concern/misconduct. It is extremely important that the concerns be reported as soon as possible so actions can be set in motion right away.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does it mean to provide a private or semi-private place for minor athletes that need to change clothes or undress? A: Minor athletes must have an option of a separate space that is private or semi-private to use if they wish. Examples include, without limitation, bathroom stalls with a door and a pop-up changing tent.

Q: Can adult athletes shower before or after practice or an event if they cannot shower with minor athletes? A: If an adult athlete meets the Close-in-Age Exception, then the adult athlete is permitted to shower with minor athletes present. Additionally, if the shower is part of a pre- or post-event rinse, and swim apparel is being worn, an adult athlete can shower with a Minor Athlete. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of the adult athlete to shower when minor athletes are not present.

Q: What does the word “expose” mean in Section V? A: Expose means a purposeful showing of private parts or being bare skinned for an abnormal amount of time while changing. Adult athletes should be thoughtful to turn their bodies away and shield their private parts from minor athletes while changing. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to areas of the body exposed while wearing swimwear which conforms to the current concept of the appropriate for the individual’s competition category.

Q: Does this policy only apply to locker rooms at competitions? A: No. MAAPP applies to any and all locker rooms or changing areas used by Adult Participants and minor athletes in connection to In-Program Contact activities such as practice, competition, camps, etc.

Q: Does this policy mean that athletes over the age of 18 cannot share a locker room or changing area with teammates under the age of 18? A: No. Unrelated Adult Participants must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area unless they meet one of the three exceptions built into the policy.

Q: Can U.S. Masters Swimming (“USMS”) members use a locker room at the same time as minor athletes? A: An unrelated Adult Participant must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. If a USMS swimmer meets the definition of an Adult Participant, then the Adult Participant must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. MAAPP would not prohibit an Adult Participant, or Adult Participant (s) from sharing a locker room or changing area with minor athletes so long as the Adult Participant is not alone in the locker room or changing area with a minor athlete.

Q: Can an athlete deck change? A: NO. Deck changing is prohibited under USA Swimming rules and by MAAPP. Every team has been sent a pop-up changing cabana to assist in enforcing this rule. Q: If the club or LSC is using a public facility, how can the club or LSC ensure compliance with this section of MAAPP? A: MAAPP only applies to Adult Participants and does not extend to the general public. Only Adult Participants are required to adhere to MAAPP.

Q: If two teams use the same practice facility, can the adult athletes from one team share a locker room or changing area with minor athletes from another team? A: Yes. Athletes from two teams sharing a practice facility would be

treated similarly to athletes on the same team so long as the adult athletes are not alone one-on-one with a minor athlete.