



**Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)**  
**What is MAAPP and How Do I Implement It at Swim Meets?**  
*Guidance for Meet Directors and Meet Referees*

***What is MAAPP?***

MAAPP is USA Swimming's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy. The policy sets specific boundaries for adults who interact with swimmers to help ensure that all athletes have a safe, enriching, and positive swimming experience. MAAPP is a critical part of USA Swimming's Safe Sport initiative.

All USA Swimming members including athletes 18 and older and adults who interact with minor athletes at swim club events, practices, meets, and other swimming activities are expected to comply with the MAAPP policy. MAAPP will be in effect for all USA Swimming sanctioned meets beginning June 23, 2019. All chaperones, team managers, adult swimmers, meet directors, officials, and non-member parents and meet volunteers are expected to understand and comply with MAAPP.

MAAPP governs five areas of potential interactions with Minor Athletes:

- One-on-one interactions
- Social media and electronic communications
- Travel
- Locker rooms and changing areas
- Massages, rub downs, and athlete training modalities

***Where can I find the full Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy?***

Go to <https://www.usaswimming.org/MAAPP> to read the full policy.

***When does MAAPP go into effect?***

The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy or MAAPP goes into effect June 23, 2019.

***What language should be included in the sanction documents and when?***

The following language should be included in sanction documents for all meets beginning on or including the date of June 23, 2019.

- "A USA Swimming club that hosts a sanctioned USA Swimming swim meet indicates acknowledgement of USA Swimming's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy ("MAAPP"). All USA Swimming members including athletes 18 and older and adults who interact with minor athletes at swim meets are expected to comply with the MAAPP policy. All chaperones, team managers, adult swimmers, meet directors, officials, and non-member parents and meet volunteers are expected to understand and comply with MAAPP. As the host club, you are responsible for ensuring that these individuals know about and comply with MAAPP."

## ***Who is covered by MAAPP?***

MAAPP applies to all Applicable Adults who are defined as:

- All USA Swimming non-athlete members (officials, coaches, chaperones, meet directors, etc.)
- All USA Swimming Adult Athlete members (swimmers 18 and older)
- Participating non-members (meet marshals, computer operators, timers, hospitality volunteers, etc.)
- LSC and club adult staff and board members
- Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes.

## ***How can Meet Referees and Meet Directors inform Applicable Adults about MAAPP at a meet?***

Meet briefings are a great way to talk about Safe Sport and the new MAAPP requirements. This might be the first time that someone has heard about MAAPP and the fact that they are held to its expectations during the meet. The language below is approved for you to use in those briefings or include on additional information you give to volunteers. Meet volunteers such as timers and hospitality workers and computer operators are not required to sign an acknowledgement that they have read or been told about MAAPP and understand MAAPP, but can give verbal acknowledgement to the meet director or meet referee of same.

### **Officials and Timer briefings:**

- This meet is conducted according to current USA Swimming Rules, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy.
- Make sure all interactions with athletes are observable and interruptible.
- Deck changing is prohibited. Report instances of deck changing to the meet referee/meet director.
- [IF ONLY ONE LOCKER ROOM/RESTROOM] Make sure you are not alone with an athlete in the locker room, including to use the restroom. Be proactive and tell the meet director immediately if this happens, even when it occurred through no fault of your own. Separate times have been delegated for your use.
- [IF MULTIPLE FACILITIES] There is a separate locker room/restroom for athletes and all other adults. Make sure that you are only using the facility marked for you.

### **Coaches briefing:**

- This meet is conducted according to current USA Swimming Rules, including the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy.
- Make sure all interactions with athletes are observable and interruptible, including any meetings you have in between races or sessions.
- Deck changing is prohibited. Make sure you tell all your athletes this. If they are seen deck changing you can expect that someone will come and remind them or you as their coach of this expectation.
- Remind your athletes of appropriate behavior in the locker room. Be sure to include that the use of any devices that record or take photos is prohibited in the locker room and changing areas.
- [IF ONLY ONE LOCKER ROOM/RESTROOM] Make sure you are not alone with an athlete in the locker room, including to use the restroom. Be proactive and tell the meet director immediately if this happens, even when no fault of your own. Separate times have been delegated for your use.
- [IF MULTIPLE FACILITIES] There is a separate locker room/restroom for athletes and all other adults. Make sure that you are only using the facility marked for you.
- As a reminder, coaches are not allowed to massage any athlete, even if you are a licensed massage therapist. This includes all massages, rubdowns, stretching, physical manipulation, injury rehabilitation, and the use of electronic or instrument assisted modalities such as stim treatment, dry needling, and cupping.
-

***What are some other ways Meet Directors can help communicate MAAPP at meets?***

- Include the Coaches Briefing in pre-meet emails to coaches along with a link to the MAAPP policy online.
- Include a reference and link to MAAPP on online volunteer and officials sign up forms for the meet. State that signing up indicates acknowledgement of MAAPP.
- Be sure meet marshals are aware of MAAPP and briefed to comply with locker room monitoring requirements.
- Print out the Coaches Briefing points from above and include with other meet materials given to coaches when they check in.
- Post the Coaches Briefing information where coaches pick up heat sheets or check in swimmers.
- Post the Officials and Timer Briefing information where these groups of volunteers gather for briefings.
- Put the Official and Timer Briefing information on the lane timer sheet boards.
- Post both briefings in the hospitality area.
- Have a print out of the full MAAPP policy available for anyone who wants to review it at the meet.

Have additional questions about MAAPP? Contact the Southern Zone Safe Sport Chair, Ceci Christy, at [ceci30327@gmail.com](mailto:ceci30327@gmail.com).