

Woodland Hills Aquatic Team (WHAT) – Code of Conduct

Last Updated: August 12, 2025

Purpose

Membership in Woodland Hills Aquatic Team (WHAT) means more than showing up for practice — it's about growing as an athlete, a teammate, and a person. This Code of Conduct outlines the behaviors and values that create a safe, respectful, and positive environment for everyone.

Our mission:

To help every swimmer build responsibility, teamwork, discipline, determination, patience, work ethic, confidence, and pride through the sport we love.

Membership in WHAT is a privilege. Coaches, board members, and officials may suspend or revoke membership if conduct goes against our mission or violates this Code.

Definitions

- **Athlete** – Any swimmer who is a member of WHAT.
- **Member** – Any registered member of USA Swimming, including swimmers, coaches, officials, and non-athlete members.
- **Parent** – A parent or legal guardian responsible for a WHAT member.
- **Teammate** – Another athlete in the club.
- **Electronic Communication** – Any form of messaging, images, or videos shared via phone, email, or social media.

Part A – Rules, Guidelines & Policies

1. General Expectations

As a member of WHAT, I will:

- Support and encourage my teammates at practice and meets.
- Show courtesy and respect to teammates, coaches, competitors, officials, parents, and the public.
- Practice good sportsmanship at all times.
- Be a positive role model for younger swimmers.
- Listen attentively to coaches.
- Respect others' feelings, space, and property — no bullying, harassment, or inappropriate behavior.

- Follow all coach instructions during practices, meets, and team activities.
- Avoid foul language or dishonest, unsafe, or illegal behavior.
- Take care of the facilities and equipment.
- Keep all electronic devices (including cameras) out of locker rooms and off the pool deck unless permitted for team purposes.
- Avoid romantic or intimate relationships with other club members.

2. Woodland Hills School District Policies

- All district rules apply while using school facilities.
- Recording videos, photos, or audio on school grounds is prohibited.

3. USA Swimming Policies

- All members agree to follow the USA Swimming Rulebook (see Part Three: Rights, Privileges, Code of Conduct).

4. Practice Policies

- Coaches set and communicate practice guidelines.
- Swimmers must notify a coach if they need to leave practice.
- Parents are responsible for swimmers before and after practice and may not be on the pool deck during practice.

5. Meet Policies

- Swimmers must check in with their coach upon arrival.
- Swimmers should consult with their coach before and after races.
- Swimmers must remain with the team on deck unless excused.
- Parents may only be on deck if volunteering in an official capacity.

6. Parent Policies

As a WHAT parent, I will:

- Support my child's participation without forcing them into events.
- Model discipline, commitment, hard work, and teamwork.
- Respect each role:
 - Swimmers – Swim
 - Coaches – Coach
 - Officials – Officiate

- Parents – Support and encourage
- Maintain good sportsmanship, even when disagreeing with calls or results.
- Address concerns or suggestions directly with a coach, not from the stands.
- Recognize that meet officials are volunteers.
- Accept that conduct bringing discredit to WHAT, AMS, or USA Swimming may result in membership termination.

7. Anti-Bullying Policy

- Bullying of any form is prohibited (physical, verbal, electronic, social).
- Reports are addressed first by coaches and the board, then referred through USA Swimming guidelines if necessary.

8. Cell Phone & Recording Device Policy

- No recording devices in locker rooms, restrooms, or changing areas.
- Devices should remain in bags, cars, or with parents in these areas.
- Recording devices may not be used on deck at swim meets.

9. Electronic Communication

- All communication should be professional and team-related.
- Coaches may contact athletes by text or email from 8:00 AM–9:00 PM for team purposes only.
- Emails to athletes must copy a parent, another coach, or a board member.
- Parents may request in writing that their child not be contacted electronically by coaches.

10. Social Media

- Coaches may not “friend” or follow athletes on personal accounts or private message them.
- WHAT has one official Facebook page for updates; no other accounts are used for official team communication.
- Parents may request in writing that coaches not contact their child through any electronic platform.

11. Reporting & Retaliation

- All members should promptly report Code violations to a coach.
- False reports or retaliation will result in disciplinary action.

Part B – Disciplinary Procedures

Possible consequences for violations:

- Verbal or written warning
- Removal from practice or a meet (parents responsible for pickup)
- Suspension or removal from the team (no refunds given)
- Financial responsibility for damages
- Notification of authorities when required

All incidents will be documented, and both athlete and parent will be informed.

Acknowledgement

By signing below and/or clicking the box in Captyn, both the parent/guardian and the swimmer acknowledge that they have read, understood, and agree to abide by the Woodland Hills Aquatic Team Code of Conduct. Both parties understand that violations may result in disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or removal from the team.