



# LOCKER ROOM MONITORING POLICY

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*Purpose of this guideline is designed to maintain personal privacy as well as to reduce the risk of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas.*

## **FACILITIES**

We do not own our own facilities. The following is a description of our practice facilities to allow athletes and their families to plan their use:

1. Brittingham-Midtown Aquatic Center. This location has:

- A changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with Coast Guard Blue Dolphins in the changing area around the time of practice.
- The entrance and exit to the locker room is from the pool deck. The hallway doors are locked. There are private family dressing rooms on deck.

2. Fort Eustis Aquatic Center. This location has:

- A changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with Coast Guard Blue Dolphins in the changing area around the time of practice.
- The entrance and exit to the locker room is from the pool deck and hallway.

There are private family dressing rooms in the common area between the Men's and Women's locker rooms.

3. James City County Recreation Center. This location has:

- A changing area that is shared with the general public. As such, there are likely to be people who are not associated with Coast Guard Blue Dolphins in the changing area around the time of practice.
- The entrance and exit to the locker rooms are from the pool deck and hallway. There are private dressing rooms.



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- Coaching staff must use the entrance way through the private dressing room area to enter and exit the pool. Or, when possible use the entrance/exit from the pool to the lobby.

## **MONITORING**

### *General Policy Considerations*

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.

### *Locker Room Monitoring*

1. Coast Guard Blue Dolphins has staggered practices, with different groups arriving and departing throughout the day. It is therefore not practical to constantly monitor locker rooms and changing areas over this extended course of time.
2. We do not post [staff, coach, parent, other adult] inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas.



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3. We do make occasional sweeps of these areas. [Staff, coach, parent, other adult] conduct these sweeps, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms.

## **USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES**

1. 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.

2. 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 cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.*

## **Undress**

1. An unrelated Applicable Adult must not expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete under any circumstance.
2. An unrelated Applicable Adult must not request an unrelated minor athlete to expose the minor athlete's breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to the unrelated Applicable Adult under any circumstance.

## **Reporting**

Misconduct is reported by:

- by a swimmer who was present and observed the misconduct
- by a parent whose swimmer mentioned the misconduct to the parent



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- by a member of the facility who was present in the locker room and identified the participants as CGBD swimmers

1. The reports most often go directly to a coach at the practice site where the misconduct occurred, but sometimes they are directed through a parent representative on the board of directors.

2. The swimmer's coach will document the incident and then discuss the misconduct with the swimmer and his/her parents.

3. Repeated misconduct by the swimmer will result in suspension of the athlete's locker room privileges for a period of time determined by the athlete's coach. If the misconduct is widespread in a given practice group then a group meeting where locker room behavior is discussed is held.

4. If there is no significant improvement in behavior, the entire group's locker room privileges will be revoked CGBD swimmers are expected to behave in locker rooms and practice facilities in accordance with our team core values.

5. When we host swim meets, a meet marshall monitors the outdoor bathrooms and only allows coaches, officials, and meet staff to use them. CGBD posts signs that direct athletes to use the larger locker rooms off the pool deck.

## Frequently Asked Questions



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Q: What does the word “expose” mean?

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.

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 Applicable Adults and minor athletes in connection to USA Swimming 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 Applicable Adults must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area except for athletes on the same team and athletes attending the same competition.

Q: Can U.S. Masters Swimming (“USMS”) members use a locker room at the same time as minor athletes?

A: An unrelated Applicable Adult must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. If a USMS swimmer meets the definition of an Applicable Adult, then the Applicable Adult must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. MAAPP would not prohibit an Applicable Adult, or Applicable Adult(s) from sharing a locker room or changing area with minor athletes so long as the Applicable Adult is not alone in the locker room or changing area with a minor athlete.

Q: Can an athlete deck change?



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A: NO. Deck changing is prohibited under USA Swimming rules and by MAAPP.

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 Applicable Adults and does not extend to the general public. Only Applicable Adults 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 other certified professional, with a copy provided to the club, and the legal guardian can withdraw that consent at any time.

Q: Can a coach provide hands-on stroke technique guidance?

A: Yes. In doing so a coach should adhere to the following best practices:

1. First, ask for the athlete's permission. For example, "Is it okay if I show you where to hold your elbow?"
2. Verbally explain what you are going to do and explain why. For example, "I'm going to hold your elbow into this position because this angle allows you to get better leverage in the water."
3. Educate team parents that they may at some point see you performing hands-on stroke technique guidance. Describe what this means, that you will always first ask for the athlete's permission and will also verbally explain to the athlete what will be demonstrated. Allow the parents to opt-out of hands-on stroke technique guidance at any time.



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4. All hands-on stroke technique guidance must be performed within an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

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