



## Grievance Procedure of the River Falls Swim Club

The River Falls Swim Club Grievance Procedure provides swimmers, parents, coaches, club leaders and employees a system to address and report grievances in a productive, systematic way. Following these procedures provides the appropriate parties a means to properly investigate, intervene, and take disciplinary action when needed.

### **WHERE TO REPORT:**

For issues dealing with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment and/or sexually explicit or inappropriate communication through social media:

U.S. Center for SafeSport: 833-5US-SAFE (587-7233) or <https://safesport.i-sight.com/portal>

For issues dealing with physical abuse, emotional abuse, criminal charges and the use, sale or distribution of illegal drugs:

USA Swimming Safe Sport: [safesport@usaswimming.org](mailto:safesport@usaswimming.org) or <https://fs22.formsite.com/usaswimming/form10/index.html>

For issues dealing with peer-to-peer bullying, coach-athlete bullying, parent issues, violations of the River Falls Swim Club Code of Conduct and violations of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy.

These issues are handled at the club level following the procedures outlined below.

### WHOM TO NOTIFY OF A GRIEVANCE

*Regarding the Conduct of a Swimmer* - Contact the Head Coach or Team Admin

Should a parent or swimmer feel another swimmer's conduct is inappropriate or violates the River Falls Swim Club Code of Conduct, the parent/swimmer should discuss these concerns with the head coach or team admin. This complaint should be made in person or in writing. The River Falls Swim Club Board of Directors will be notified of the complaint.

*Regarding the Conduct of an Assistant Coach or Team Admin* - Contact the Head Coach

Should a parent or swimmer feel an Assistant Coach's conduct is inappropriate or in violation of any Club policies or procedures, the parent/swimmer should notify the Head Coach of this violation. This complaint should be made in person or in writing. The Head Coach will ensure that the River Falls Swim Board of Directors is notified of the complaint.

*Regarding Conduct of Head Coach* – Contact the River Falls Swim Club Board President

Should a parent or swimmer feel the Head Coach's conduct is inappropriate or violates any Club policies or procedures, the parent/swimmer should notify the President of the Board of Directors of this violation. This complaint should be made in person or in writing. If the President is not immediately available, this complaint may be presented to the Team Admin or any member of the Board of Directors, with notification made in writing to the President. This complaint will be subject to review and discussion by the full Board of Directors.



## Grievance Procedure of the River Falls Swim Club

### *Regarding Board of Director Member Conduct – Contact the Head Coach*

Should a parent or swimmer feel a Director's conduct is inappropriate or violates any Club policies or procedures, the parent/swimmer should notify the Head Coach of this violation in person or in writing. The Head Coach will ensure that the River Falls Swim Board of Directors is notified of the complaint.

### *Regarding Parent or Swim Official Conduct - Notify the Head Coach or Team Admin*

Should a parent or swimmer feel another River Falls Swim Club parent's or an official's conduct is inappropriate or violates any Club policies or procedures, the parent/swimmer should notify the Head Coach or Team Admin of this violation in person or in writing. The Head Coach will ensure that the River Falls Swim Board of Directors is notified of the complaint.

**Note:** With the exception of issues which immediately affect the health and safety of swimmers, all matters should be discussed before or after a coaching session, as coaches should not be expected to deal with issues during water time.

### HOW GRIEVANCES WILL BE HANDLED

*The Head Coach has the authority to impose penalties for infractions of the River Falls Swim Club Athlete, Parent and Coach Codes of Conduct or any behavior(s) deemed not conducive to the best interests of the Club or other swimmers. Consequences are at the sole discretion of the Head Coach and/or River Falls Swim Club Board of Directors and may include, but aren't limited to, verbal warnings, dismissal from practice, contacting parents, temporary suspension from club activities and expulsion. Involved parties will be informed of the processes and range of potential consequences. The U.S. Center for SafeSport, USA Swimming and local law enforcement (if applicable) will be contacted within 24 hours if a coach, parent, or swimmer violates the SafeSport Code for the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movements, the USA Swimming Code of Conduct, Athlete Protection Policy, or local laws.*

1. Gathering Information: The appropriate individuals will contact the person who filed the grievance, and the person against whom the grievance is being filed, to ask questions about what happened. In addition, other witnesses may be contacted for more information. All information will be recorded.
2. Assessing Behavior: The behavior of the person(s) against which the grievance was brought, will be assessed using club policies and facility rules, USA Swimming Code of Conduct, USA Swimming Safe Sport policies, as well as applicable local and state laws.
3. Consequences will be given and disciplinary action will be taken, if appropriate. These consequences and disciplinary actions will be decided using the following general guidelines:
  - a. Nature of the misconduct
  - b. Severity of the misconduct
  - c. Prior disciplinary actions
  - d. Adverse effect of the misconduct
  - e. Application of the Code of Conduct