



Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA)

Empowering Alaskans through Water Safety, Education, and Competitive Spirit

Website: www.aquaticfoundationalaska.org

Email: yeti@aquaticfoundationalaska.org

Phone: (779) AFA-YETI

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA)

Effective Date: September 1, 2021

Approved By: AFA Board of Directors

Last Reviewed: October 10, 2025

This Policy Applies To

In-Program Contact: Any contact (including communications, interactions, or activities) between an **Adult Participant** and any **Minor Athlete(s)** related to participation in sport.

Examples include, but are not limited to: competition, practices, camps/clinics, training or instructional sessions, pre/post-event meals or outings, team travel, video review, team or sport-related team-building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community service, sport education, competition site visits, conventions, and/or summits.

Adult Participants

Any adult 18 years of age or older who is:

- A USA Swimming member, either athlete or non-athlete;
 - A participating non-member (e.g., meet marshals, computer operators, timers, etc.);
 - Authorized, approved, or appointed by USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs, or member clubs to have regular contact with or authority over Minor Athletes; and/or
 - Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs, or member clubs.
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General Requirement

USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs, and member clubs are required to implement this **Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)** in full.

The MAAPP must be reviewed and agreed to in writing **annually** by all athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, and other non-athlete members of AFA, with written acknowledgment retained by the club.

Definitions

Key definitions (consistent with USA Swimming MAAPP 2.0) include:

- **Athlete:** A USA Swimming athlete member.
- **Authority:** A position over another that allows one to direct, control, or make decisions for that person.
- **Dual Relationship:** When an Adult Participant also has a non-sport relationship with a Minor Athlete (family member, teacher, health professional, etc.).
- **Emergency Circumstances:** Serious, unexpected situations that require immediate action and cannot be avoided.
- **Electronic Communication:** Includes phone, email, video, text, or social media.
- **In-Program:** Any activity related to AFA or USA Swimming participation.
- **In-Program Contact / Travel / Massage:** Any such activities involving Adult Participants and Minor Athletes.
- **Minor Athlete:** Any USA Swimming athlete member under 18 years of age or who was a member within the past 12 months.
- **Organization:** Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA).

Exceptions

Close-In-Age Exception

In-Program Contact between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete is permitted if:

1. The Adult Participant has **no authority** over the Minor Athlete; and
2. The Adult Participant is **not more than four years older** than the Minor Athlete.

Dual Relationship Exception

An Adult Participant with a dual role or relationship with a Minor Athlete must have **written parental consent** at least annually.

One-on-One Interactions

All one-on-one In-Program Contact between a Minor Athlete and an Adult Participant must be **observable and interruptible** by another adult, except in emergency circumstances or when the above exceptions apply.

Meetings & Individual Training Sessions

- Meetings must be observable, interruptible, and held in unlocked rooms with open windows or doors.

- Meetings must not occur in hotel rooms or overnight lodging.
 - Individual training sessions must be observable and interruptible and require **advance written parental consent**, renewed annually.
 - Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe.
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Electronic Communications

All electronic communication from Adult Participants to Minor Athletes must be **professional, open, and transparent**.

- Parents/guardians must be copied on any one-on-one electronic communication.
 - Electronic communication should occur **between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. local time** unless in emergency circumstances or travel.
 - Adult Participants may not maintain **private social media connections** with Minor Athletes.
 - Parents may request in writing that their Minor Athlete not be contacted via electronic means; AFA must honor such requests.
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In-Program Travel and Lodging

Transportation

- Adult Participants must not transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one, except in emergencies or with **annual written parental consent**.
- Shared or carpool travel should be structured so that **parent/guardians pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop them off last**.
- All traveling Adult Participants must be **USA Swimming non-athlete members**.

Lodging

- Adult Participants must not share overnight lodging or sleeping arrangements with athletes.
 - All interactions in lodging areas must be **observable and interruptible**.
 - Room checks require **two-deep leadership** (two Adult Participants present).
 - Minor Athletes should be roomed with others of **same competition category and similar age**.
 - Written consent from a parent/guardian is required annually for all In-Program Travel.
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Locker Rooms and Changing Areas

- Deck changing is prohibited.
- All interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes in these areas must be **observable and interruptible**.

- AFA must provide a **private or semi-private changing area** for any Minor Athlete who requests it.
 - The use of **recording devices** in these spaces is strictly prohibited.
 - Adult Participants must not expose private body parts or request exposure from a Minor Athlete.
 - Adult Participants may only shower with Minor Athletes if a **close-in-age exception** applies or it is a pre/post activity rinse in swimwear.
 - AFA will **monitor locker rooms regularly**, using random checks and posted staff supervision.
 - Parents entering locker rooms must be of the same competition category and notify a coach or admin beforehand.
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Massages, Rubdowns, and Athletic Training Modalities

- Any In-Program massage must occur in an **observable and interruptible** space and be performed by a **licensed professional**.
 - Coaches, even if licensed, may not perform massages on athletes.
 - Written parental consent is required annually for any massage treatment.
 - Parents/guardians must be allowed to observe.
 - Minor Athletes must remain **appropriately clothed** at all times.
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Monitoring and Enforcement

AFA staff and coaches are required to monitor all team environments — in person, digitally, and during travel — to ensure compliance with MAAPP standards.

Violations will be addressed promptly through:

1. **Verbal or written notice**,
 2. **Investigation by the AFA Safe Sport Coordinator**, and
 3. **Possible disciplinary action**, including suspension or removal from membership.
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Reporting Concerns

Any suspected violation, misconduct, or concern must be reported immediately to:

- **AFA Safe Sport Coordinator:** safesport@aquaticfoundationalaska.org
- **Head Coach:** coach.grant@aquaticfoundationalaska.org
- **Parent Coordinator:** volunteer@aquaticfoundationalaska.org
- **USA Swimming Safe Sport Office:** safesport@usaswimming.org

- **USA Swimming Safe Sport Reporting Form:** www.usaswimming.org/report

All reports will be acknowledged within **48 hours** and handled confidentially in accordance with AFA's **Grievance & Reporting Policy**.

Acknowledgment

Participation in AFA programs constitutes acknowledgment of this **Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP)**.

All athletes, parents/guardians, coaches, staff, and volunteers must sign the annual AFA Safe Sport acknowledgment form before participation.



Footer

Aquatic Foundation of Alaska (AFA) — *Promoting safety, excellence, and inclusion through the power of water.*

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