

## Locker Room Monitoring Procedure

We do not own our own facility. All of our practice locations are local area YMCAs. All of the athletes on our swim team are also members of the YMCA. Because of this, our swimmers have to follow both the YMCA's rules for locker room usage as well as our team Locker Room Policies.

Some YMCAs have designated youth locker rooms while others do not. In facilities that have separate youth and adult locker rooms, swimmers 15 and younger are not permitted to use the adult locker rooms unless they are accompanied by a same sex parent.

Some YMCAs have private family changing rooms where a parent can take all of his/her young children to change before or after practice.

All of the locker rooms we use are open to the general YMCA membership, which of course includes children and adults who are not affiliated with our program.

Our team members must comply with our Safe Sport Locker Room Policies which come directly from the MAAPP guidelines for changing rooms. That document is included with this statement.

Locker room misconduct is reported in several ways:

- by a swimmer who was present and observed the misconduct
- by a parent whose swimmer mentioned the misconduct to the parent
- by a member of the YMCA who was present in the locker room and identified the participants as TIDE swimmers

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. The swimmer's coach will document the incident and then discuss the misconduct with the swimmer and his/her parents. 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. If there is no significant improvement in behavior, the entire group's locker room privileges will be revoked.

Tide swimmers are expected to behave in locker rooms and practice facilities in accordance with our core values of respect (for others and for property), integrity (behavior that reflects positively on TIDE), and gratitude (understanding that locker room access is a privilege).

Our locker room policy stipulates that random sweeps are conducted when required to assure that all athletes are behaving appropriately and respecting the practice facility.

When we host swim meets, a meet marshall monitors the outdoor bathrooms and only allows coaches, officials, and meet staff to use them. We post signs that direct athletes to use the indoor, larger YMCA locker rooms.

## **Tide Swimming Safe Sport Locker Room Policies**

It is important to note that because TIDE practice is conducted at YMCA facilities and TIDE athletes are YMCA members, all athlete and non-athlete members of TIDE must abide by the rules of the YMCA that govern locker room access and usage by YMCA members.

TIDE 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. While we do not post locker room monitors inside or at the doors of the locker rooms and changing areas, we do make occasional sweeps of these areas. Authorized adults conduct these sweeps in accordance with the guidelines in the MAAPP, with women checking on female locker rooms, and men checking on male locker rooms.

Remember, the USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) applies to Applicable Adults, not to members of the general public. Applicable Adults are adults who meet any of the 4 criteria below:

- All USA Swimming non-athlete members (coaches, officials, chaperones, et) and adult athlete members
- Participating non-member (meet marshalls, timers, other meet staff)
- LSC and club adult staff and board members
- Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete

### **Locker Rooms and Changing Areas**

Locker rooms and changing areas are private and enclosed spaces in which abuse can occur. To prevent abuse of minor athletes in these private areas, this section of the MAAPP is intended to keep Applicable Adults from being present in a locker room or changing area at the same time as minor athletes.

Please note that Adult Athletes are Applicable Adults. It is important for adult athletes to carefully read and understand their responsibilities under this section. Please read every point carefully to avoid confusion.

The following is an excerpt from USA Swimming's MAAPP and applies to Tide Swimming.

#### **I. Requirement to Use Locker Room or Changing Area**

The designated locker room or changing area must be used when an athlete or Applicable Adult changes, in whole or in part, into or out of a swimsuit when wearing just one suit (e.g., deck changing is prohibited).

#### **II. Use of Recording Devices**

Use of any device's recording capabilities (including a cell phone's), including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces by a minor

athlete or an Applicable Adult is prohibited.

### III. Undress

An unrelated Applicable Adult must not expose his or her breasts, buttocks, groin, or genitals to a minor athlete under any circumstance. 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.

### IV. One-on-One Interactions

Except for athletes on the same team or athletes attending the same competition, at no time are unrelated Applicable Adults permitted to be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area, except under emergency circumstances. If the organization is using a facility that only has a single locker room or changing area, separate times for use by Applicable Adults must be designated.

### V. Monitoring

The club must regularly and randomly monitor the use of locker rooms and changing areas to ensure compliance with this Policy. Locker rooms and changing areas may be monitored by use of the following methods:

- Conducting a sweep of the locker room or changing area before athletes arrive;
- Posting staff directly outside the locker room or changing area during periods of use;
- Leaving the doors open when adequate privacy is still possible; and/or
- Making occasional sweeps of the locker rooms or changing areas with women checking on female locker rooms and men checking on male locker rooms.

VI. Every effort must be made to recognize when a minor athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and competition, and, if the minor athlete does not return in a timely fashion, to check on the minor athlete's whereabouts.

### VII. Legal Guardians in Locker Rooms or Changing Areas

Legal guardians are discouraged from entering locker rooms and changing areas. If a legal guardian does enter a locker room or changing area, it must only be a same-sex legal guardian and the legal guardian should notify a coach or administrator in advance.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** What does the word "expose" mean in Section III?

**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?

**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.