

2011 SVAC Code of Conduct

Behavior Standard: This SVAC Swim Team philosophy is one of fun, sportsmanship, and fair play, no matter what the level of competition. The following are guidelines for good behavior and dispute resolution.

1. Any person connected with the SVAC will be subject to disciplinary action if their behaviors or actions consistently or flagrantly violate the SVAC By-Laws or the SVAC Rules & Responsibilities. When it is deemed necessary or appropriate to take disciplinary action, coordination will forward to the SVAC Board of Directors or the President of the SVAC.
2. Persons must not unduly criticize swimmers in front of other persons, or other swimmers.
3. No person connected with the SVAC shall use any physical or verbal abuse against swimmers, spectators, parents, game officials, coaches, or other members.
4. No person connected with the SVAC shall use profanity of any nature while conducting the activities or duties of the SVAC.
5. All persons concerned should accept the decisions of the swim-meet officials on the pool deck as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
6. Any disputes concerning a meet, practice or other SVAC function should be directed to the SVAC Board of Directors. Coordinators will forward to the President of the SVAC for further action, if necessary.
7. Any additional behavior-related matters will be handled in accordance with the current USA Swimming Rules and Regulations Handbook, Rights, Privileges and Code of Conduct Section.

Parents' Responsibilities:

1. The parents/guardians are responsible for the timely registration of all swimmers in their family.
2. Parents/guardians are responsible for the attendance of their swimmer(s) at each practice and meet. It is important that each swimmer arrive and leave practice in a timely manner.
3. Parents/guardians must notify the head coach, in writing, no later than the close of practice on the Wednesday before each meet whether their swimmer(s) will or will not be able to attend the swim meet.
4. Parents are expected to behave in a mature manner during the swim season. Parents should be aware that not all swimmers can or will swim in all events. Parents should be aware that the needs of the team in a particular meet may result in swimmers not competing in all events for which they are eligible or for which they have a preference. Attempting to gain favor for an individual swimmer will not be tolerated, as this will undermine the effectiveness of the coaching staff and the unity of the team.
5. Interfering with coaches, swimmers or officials during swim meets or practices is strictly prohibited and will result in ejection from the pool area.
6. Each family is required to help at a minimum of four swim meets during the swim season.

Swimmer's Responsibilities:

1. Swimmers should be punctual for all practices and meets. Pool time is very valuable.
2. All swimmers will be expected to swim during all practices they attend and swim in all the events designated by the coaches during a swim meet unless they are visibly injured, ill, or have obtained a doctor's or parent's note.
3. Any swimmer who voluntarily chooses not to participate in an event and/or not to swim at practice within the week of a meet will, at the coach's discretion, not be allowed to participate in that weekend's or weekdays meet.
4. Each swimmer must actively participate in a minimum of three practices to be eligible to swim in the weekly swim meet. Swimmers are expected to attend the Friday morning practice before each meet. The head coach will determine other excused absences.
5. USSWIM swimmers may practice with their USSWIM team in lieu of the Marlins practices with approval from the head coach. They must still attend the Friday morning practice before a meet. Swimmers who practice with their USSWIM team must still notify the head coach, in writing, by Wednesday if they will or will not be participating in the Saturday meet.
6. Each swimmer must swim in a minimum of three PMSL dual meets during the season in order to be eligible for a team award. The Guppy, "B" meets, Divisional, All-Stars, and the Charles County Championships do not count toward this award qualification.
7. All swimmers must wear a one-piece bathing suit. All swimmers must wear the team suit or a color-matching suit at meets.
8. SVAC swim team caps only during swim meets. No other team caps are allowed.
9. During meets, all team members will remain in the designated team area unless a coach grants permission to leave.
10. Swimmers are responsible for cleaning the designated team area during and after all meets.
11. Non-swimmers will not interfere with the orderly conduct of activities in the team area during meets.
12. A swimmer's conduct at practices and swim meets should support every other swimmer's ability to learn and the coach's ability to teach other swimmers.
13. Disruption of practice by an athlete will be grounds for removal. Continual cheating in a practice will be considered a disruption of practice.
14. Swimmers are expected to use appropriate language. Use of profane or abusive language or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
15. Swimmers are expected to respect each other. Fighting, intentional touching or striking another athlete will not be tolerated.
16. Swimmers are expected to respect and care for the property of others. Vandalism, intentional damage to property or theft of property will not be tolerated.