

GKAISA MINOR ATHLETE ABUSE PREVENTION SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

GENERAL REQUIREMENT

USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs (local swimming committees) are required to implement a Minor Abuse Prevention Policy as prescribed by USA Swimming. This policy is available on the USA Swimming website. The Minor Abuse Prevention Policy must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of member clubs on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the club.

While GKAISA and its member clubs are not affiliated with USA Swimming, the GKAISA Championship Meet is an observed meet by USA Swimming. Accordingly, beginning in July of 2019, we were required to implement the USA Swimming rules related to restrooms and changing facilities for minor athletes and adults, whether swimmers, coaches, volunteers or officials.

After review of the USA Swimming policy, the GKAISA Board felt that some of the provisions were relevant and would be beneficial for member clubs. While GKAISA will not mandate that our member clubs adopt a Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, we have drafted suggested guidelines that our member teams may want to adopt in whole or in part. Protection of our minor athletes is a top priority for GKAISA, and we want to facilitate rules and suggested governance that will safeguard our swimmers, coaches and volunteers.

SUGGESTED POLICIES

ONE-ON-ONE INTERACTIONS

1. Observable and Interruptible

One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult (adult who is not the minor's legal guardian) must occur at an observable and interruptible distance from another adult unless under emergency circumstances.

2. Meetings

a. Meetings between a minor athlete and an Applicable Adult may only occur if another adult is present and where interactions can be easily observed and at an interruptible distance from another adult, except under emergency circumstances.

b. If a one-on-one meeting takes place, the door to the room must remain unlocked and open. If available, it must occur in a room that has windows, with the window, blinds, and/or curtains open.

3. Individual Training Sessions and Private Lessons

Individual training sessions outside of the regular course of training and practice between Applicable Adults and minor athletes are permitted if the training session is observable

and interruptible by another adult. Legal guardians must be allowed to observe the training session.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

1. Content

All electronic communication from Applicable Adults to minor athletes must be professional in nature.

2. Open and Transparent

Absent emergency circumstances, if an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes needs to communicate directly with a minor athlete via electronic communications (including social media), the minor athlete's legal guardian must be copied. If a minor athlete communicates to the Applicable Adult (with authority over the minor athlete) privately first, said Applicable Adult must copy the minor athlete's legal guardian on any electronic communication response to the minor athlete.

When an Applicable Adult with authority over minor athletes communicates electronically to the entire team, said Applicable Adult must copy another adult.

3. Requests to Discontinue

Legal guardians may request in writing that their minor athletes not be contacted through any form of electronic communication by the team or by an Applicable Adult subject to this policy. The organization must abide by any such request that the minor athlete not be contacted via electronic communication, or included in any social media post, absent emergency circumstances.

4. Prohibited Electronic Communication

Applicable Adults with authority over minor athletes are not permitted to maintain private social media connections with unrelated minor athletes, and such Applicable Adults are not permitted to accept personal page requests on social media platforms from minor athletes. Existing social media connections with minor athletes must be discontinued. Minor athletes may "friend" the official team pages.

Applicable adults with authority over minor athletes must not send private, instant or direct messages to a minor athlete through social media platforms.

TRAVEL

Local Travel

Local travel consists of travel to training, practice, competition and team-sponsored events and activities that occurs locally and does not include an overnight stay.

Applicable adults must not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must always have at least two minor athletes or another

adult in the vehicle, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor athlete's legal guardian.

Legal guardians must pick up their minor athletes first and drop off their minor athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

LOCKER ROOMS AND CHANGING AREAS and BEHIND STARTING BLOCKS

1. Use of Recording Devices

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

Use of any device's (including a cell phone's) recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras, and video cameras behind the starting blocks by a minor athlete or Applicable Adult is strictly prohibited.

2. 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 circumstances.

3. 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 with only a single locker room or changing area, care must be taken to be sure that minor athletes and Applicable Adults are not using the locker room or changing area at the same time.

4. Monitoring

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