



GOLD's Athlete Protection Policy and Electronic Communication Policy

GOLD's Athlete Protection Policy

1. Inappropriate touching between an athlete and an adult non-athlete member or Participating Non-Member (as defined in 401.1) is prohibited.
2. Massages are prohibited.
3. Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, restrooms or locker rooms.
4. Employees and volunteers of USA Swimming, LSCs and member clubs who interact directly and frequently with athletes as a regular part of their duties and individuals with any ownership interest in a member club must be non-athlete members of USA Swimming and satisfactorily complete criminal background checks as required by USA Swimming. This does not apply to volunteers such as timers, marshals, computer operators, etc. who only have limited contact with athletes during a meet.

Travel:

1. Coaches shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with any athlete.
2. Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-required criminal background check.
3. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his/her parent's (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach.

GOLD's Electronic Communication Policy

All communications between a coach or other adult and an athlete must be professional in nature and for the purpose of communicating information about team activities. The content and intent of all electronic communications must adhere to the USA Swimming Code of Conduct regarding Athlete Protection.

Any communication concerning an athlete's personal life, social activities, relationship or family issues or personal problems must be transparent, accessible and professional.

All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be transparent. Your communication should not only be clear and direct, but also free of hidden meanings, innuendo and expectations.

All electronic communication between coaches and athletes should be considered a matter of record and part of the Club's records. Whenever possible, include another coach or parent in the communication so that there is no question regarding accessibility.

All electronic communication between a coach and an athlete should be conducted professionally as a representative of the Club. This includes word choices, tone, grammar, and subject matter that model the standards and integrity of a staff member.

SOCIAL MEDIA:

Coaches are not permitted to have any athlete member of the Club join their personal page. Coaches are not permitted to communicate with athletes through social media.

We use the REMIND application to communicate with our team. This will be used for reminders, practice changes, meet changes and other information. Coaches and administration can also be contacted through this app.