



# Hickory Willow Swim Association

**Desire, Dedication, Determination**



The USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) has five parts. This resource is intended to provide information regarding implementing the Locker Rooms and Changing Areas section of the policy.

Hickory Willow Swim Association rents pool space from Stagg High School. Stagg High School has locker rooms at end of the pool. One for men/boys and the other locker room for women/girls. Once HWSA practices/meets are in session, only swimmers are allowed the use the locker rooms. No coaches and/or parents are allowed in the swimmer's locker rooms. Coaches are to use the bathroom in the coaches' office. Parents are to use the bathrooms locate down each of the hallways outside of the locker rooms. Safety First!

The HWSA Board of Directors believes that constant monitoring inside of all locker rooms and changing areas could be the most effective way to prevent problems, but it believes more strongly that our swimmers have a track record of behaving well and that constant monitoring would make swimmers uncomfortable and may even place our staff or volunteers at risk for unwarranted suspicion.

## **HWSA Best Practice Locker Room Policy**

- No HWSA athlete may leave practice without permission from a coach. (See Policy Considerations below.)
- No HWSA athlete should be in the locker room alone at any time unless absolutely necessary.
- HWSA athletes should read and adhere to IL and HWSA Locker Room policies.
- HWSA athletes must be aware that if an adult is present in the locker room to report to the coach or HWSA staff member.
- HWSA athletes should shower and dress quickly avoiding time spent without cover in front of mirrors or in front of others.
- Parents should not enter the locker room unless absolutely necessary and then with conditions. (See below for Policy Considerations.)

**Character First** -- HWSA athletes understand personal accountability and the expectation of being a HWSA team member is always about maintaining a high level of personal character. The use of poor language, inappropriate discussions and general rough housing in the locker room is unacceptable. Please notify a coach to report any violations.

## **General Policy Considerations**

Coaches make every effort to recognize when an athlete goes to the locker room or changing area during practice and, if they do not return in a timely fashion, we will check on the athlete's whereabouts. A swimmer leaving the water for the locker room or changing area must ask the coach first. It is impossible to record these instances, but this request allows for a better awareness.

Parents should not enter the locker rooms unless it is truly necessary. In those instances, it should only be a same-sex parent entering from the hallway and entry should only be to the point where inquiry can be made as to the progress of the swimmer—typically a few feet inside the door. Please remain close to the door in order to respect swimmers' privacy. An opposite-sex parent needs to ask another parent to check on his/her child. If this is not an option, then the parent should let the coach know about this in advance, allow the coach to announce him or herself and allow swimmers to gather things to maintain their privacy. Following this announcement and a brief period, the coach and opposite sex parent can enter the locker room but only for the limited, specific purpose (and time needed) for which they entered.

## **USE OF CELL PHONES AND OTHER MOBILE RECORDING DEVICES**

HWSA prohibits the use of mobile devices with recording capability in locker rooms.

Cell phones and other mobile devices with recording capabilities, including voice recording, still cameras and video cameras increase the risk for different forms of misconduct in locker rooms and changing areas. The USA Swimming Athlete Protection Policies prohibit the use of such devices in the locker room or other changing area:

***305.3 Use of audio or visual recording devices, including a cell phone camera, is not allowed in changing areas, rest rooms or locker rooms.***

This absolutely applies to cell phones even if the person is not using the photo, video or other recording device. Please understand that the actual use of a photo, video or other recording device can violate state law as well as HWSA team policies and lead to serious consequences. Your child should be specifically advised that cell phones are not things that they require at practice although reality suggests this is impossible to enforce. Please insure that all swimmers are aware NOT to use any function on any mobile or recording device whatsoever while in a locker room and should remain in a bag or clothing pocket.

## **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.

Prior to MAAPP, a team locker room policy has been a strongly recommended best practice. This section of MAAPP is very closely aligned with USA Swimming rules, Model Policy on Locker Rooms and published Best Practice Guidelines. Now, rather than recommended practices, this is a USA Swimming requirement.

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.

## **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, this policy applies to any and all locker rooms or changing areas used by Applicable Adults and minor athletes in connection to 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 Masters swimmers 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 Masters 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.

**Q:** Can an athlete deck change?

**A:** NO. Deck changing is prohibited under USA Swimming rules and by MAAPP.