

Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) FAQ

NOTE: This summary Q&A document is for information purposes. Communications, policies, rules and regulations from the U.S. Center for SafeSport or USA Swimming take precedence over any errors or omissions in this summary.

- 1. Where did MAAPP come from?** MAAPP came out of a mandate by Congress to the U.S. Center for SafeSport to reduce risk areas for abuse in youth sports. The risk areas addressed by the policy are:
 - One-on-One Interactions
 - Social Media and Electronic Communications
 - Travel
 - Locker Rooms and Changing Areas
 - Massages and Rubdowns
- 2. Who needs to implement MAAPP?** MAAPP needs to be implemented by all sports with a National Governing Body (NGB) – basically all Olympic sports. It is not unique to USA Swimming or Maryland Swimming. USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs are required to implement this Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy in full.
- 3. When does MAAPP need to be implemented by?** June 23, 2019 and certified annually thereafter.
- 4. Does the MAAPP look the same for all sports?** No, MAAPP was modified slightly by USA Swimming for the sport of swimming. The changes were approved by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport and resulted in the policy that must be implemented for USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs.
- 5. Who must agree to and follow the requirements of MAAPP?** Applicable Adults must agree to follow MAAPP requirements. Applicable Adults are:
 - All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members (athletes aged 18 and over)
 - Participating non-members (e.g. meet marshals, computer operators, timers, announcers, etc.)
 - LSC and club adult staff and board members
 - Any other adult authorized to have **regular contact with or authority over minor Athletes**
- 6. When am I an Applicable Adult?** Once you meet any of the four descriptions of Applicable Adult listed above.

7. **How long do I retain Applicable Adult status?** An individual is an Applicable Adult for as long as one of the four descriptions applies to that individual.
8. **What is required to show compliance with MAAPP?** The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all adult athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of member clubs and LSCs on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the club or LSC.
9. **How does a club obtain written agreement? *To meet the June 23rd deadline:*** Send an email to all adult club members, including adult athletes, with the full MAAPP policy attached. Ask them to read it and acknowledge that they agree to follow MAAPP by responding to the email. The club must retain these email responses as proof of “written” acknowledgement. Suggestion by USA Swimming, is to keep a paper copy in case a computer file goes bad.

For future: Incorporate agreement to MAAPP in your annual registration process like the way you have your members acknowledge your team’s code of conduct, such as a check box or initial a statement that says they understand and agree to MAAPP. This must be done annually and the agreement to MAAPP must be retained by the club.

10. **Is there a template signature statement for all Applicable Adults that may be used to ensure the language used is appropriate and consistent?** Yes. There is a current template signature statement available. The policy can be viewed in full at: www.usaswimming.org/maapp. This is the language that is to be used as an overlay or insert into your current club policies. It cannot be edited or changed.
11. **Who will be responsible for unattached non-athlete and unattached adult athlete members?** The Maryland LSC office will notifying coaches of the unattached non-athlete and unattached adult athlete members with the Maryland LSC. It is the responsibility of the coach to communicate to athlete to come compliant with MAAPP policy.
12. **Do non-member participants (volunteers at meets and team events) need to take APT, have a background check and become non-athlete members of USA Swimming?** No. Volunteers (non-member participants) such as safety marshals, lane timers, computer operators, and announcers, will need to abide by MAAPP while volunteering at a meet or other team event. They do **NOT** need take APT, have a background check or become members of USA Swimming. They **will** need to acknowledge that they must abide by MAAPP while they are participating. The acknowledgement may be covered if they have previously responded to the club as in the case of a parent member of the club. For other non-members participants (i.e. a grandparent that is not a member of the club but helping as a lane timer), they will need to agree to follow MAAPP while they are volunteering.

13. **Are chaperones Applicable Adults?** Yes, chaperones are adults authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete. They should be non-athlete members of USA Swimming as well.
14. **What do adult athlete members (athletes age 18 and over) need to do?** Adult athletes need to:
- Complete Athlete Protection Training (APT). The training you need to take is the regular Athlete Protection Training **NOT** the “free Safe Sport training for athletes”. The correct trainings can be found here:
<https://www.usaswimming.org/utility/landing-pages/safe-sport/apt>
You must log into the LEARN platform using your name and birthdate to receive credit for the trainings. The APT training is free - just not labeled as free.
 - Read and acknowledge MAAPP in writing.
 - Continue to be an amazing teammate and friend to those under 18 on your club. MAAPP does **NOT** mean that you can no longer text or talk with your friends that are under 18. The **ONLY** time where MAAPP will require a change in your behavior is **IF** you have authority over an athlete under age 18 (i.e. you are a coach to that minor athlete). In that case, you must abide by MAAPP in your interactions with that minor athlete.
15. **Are junior coaches Applicable Adults?** Yes, junior coaches under the age of 18 are Applicable Adults to the minors they coach. They are also non-athlete members of USA Swimming. Junior coaches are perceived to be in a position of power or authority over minor athletes. As a result, junior coaches must be educated on the importance of boundaries between adults and minors. This knowledge base will be important for junior coaches who become adult coaches in future.
16. **What are the limitations with regards to the interactions of an adult athlete and a minor athlete that is a peer (i.e. adult athlete and minor athlete in the same practice group who are close in age)?** There are no limitations placed on the relationship of peers outside of club supervised events (e.g. practice, meets) **as long as the adult athlete is not a coach with authority over the minor athlete**. Outside of club or team supervised time the USA Swimming MAAPP policy does not apply and those student athletes can maintain their normal peer relationship with each other.
- **Carpooling:** They may still carpool.
 - **Texting and other social media:** They may still communicate and have social media connections.
 - **Locker room and the various stages of undress:** Adult athletes may still use the locker room, along with other applicable adults. They should avoid one-on-one situations and should not expose themselves. “Expose” would mean flaunting yourself around while undressed. Use common sense and modesty as a best practice.

17. **What are the locker room expectations with regards to unrelated “Applicable Adults” in locker rooms at places such as YMCAs, where adult YMCA members (who may not be team members) share locker room facilities?** MAAPP only applies to those who are Applicable Adults. The YMCA member, if not a member of the club team, is not covered under the description of Applicable Adults and is not subject to the policy.
18. **Will the club or LSC need to change current policies?** Yes. MAAPP must be adopted in full. You should implement MAAPP in full at one time. If you have parts of MAAPP that you would like to make stringent, you may do so. You do not need to lower your expectations. You cannot make the MAAPP less stringent.
19. **What if I am a USA Swimming coach member and also an NCAA coach, when am I an Applicable Adult?** A USA Swimming non-athlete member is an Applicable Adult. A USA Swimming non-athlete member remains Applicable Adult status for as long as the individual is a USA Swimming non-athlete member. The USA Swimming non-athlete member and the associated Applicable Adult statuses do not “turn off” when acting as an NCAA coach.
20. **Additionally, what are these 18+ athletes required to complete under the rules of Safe Sport, or other? For instance, are they required to complete On-line course work? USA-S background checks? Other?** 18+ athletes are required to complete the same Athlete Protection Training that non-athlete members are required to take. They do not have to complete a background check.
21. **Are these athletes require to pay the full cost of these education requirements and the full USA background check, or may they provide State Police and Child Protective Services background checks, which are offered at no cost to the individual or club?** The Athlete Protection Training is free to all USA Swimming members.
22. **Are we required to submit and action plan to AMS regarding our implementation of MAAPP?** No.
23. **We currently follow USA Swimming’s Safe Sport Program. Is there additional policies we need to implement from USA Swimming in addition to MAAPP?** No. MAAPP is meant to be an overlay to your existing policies. Required Policies include: Team Travel, Electronic Communication, Anti-Bullying Plan, and Locker Room Use/Monitoring. Strongly Recommend: Photography(Information will come out soon relating to photography)
24. **Are there additional resources that you can direct us to that will enable our club to successfully implement MAAPP?** Yes. We will be sending out tools on a weekly basis as they become available, or you can also check www.usaswimming.org/maapp

25. **Since most clubs require home meet volunteering, ALL parents on a team would be Applicable Adults?** NO. Volunteering for a meet position does not require that person to be a non-athlete member for your club. Only those positions that require non-athlete member registration with USA swimming (or Athlete members 18 and older that are registered with USA Swimming) would apply. That said, there will be verbal review of expectations that will eventually need to be reviewed with meet volunteers during their shift.
26. **Sunscreen application: parents can't apply it to other kids at a meet OR at any time outside of swimming if said child is on the swim team?** No. Parents can apply sunscreen to athletes when there is consent. They must first ask permission to apply it and then state to the athlete where they will touch before they start.
27. **Scenario: my daughter has a spa sleepover party with swim friends: myself or my 18-year-old swimmer can't massage another child or apply a facial?** No. This is not pertaining to a club organized event. That does not apply. This rule is not trying to influence relationships as peers
28. **Will all practice carpool drivers/parents now need a permission slip through our club to carpool other kids without a second adult in the vehicle?** No. The rule applies to 1:1 contact. One adult with two or more minors in the car does not apply. Similarly, two adults to one minor in the car does not apply. It also does not apply to those emergent spontaneous situations or in a moment when it's necessary for an adult to take only one minor home and it's not their own child.