

Motion - Swim Meet Spectator Code of Conduct for Zone 1S Meets

Background

Over the last several years, situations periodically have arisen where the behavior of spectators/parents at swim meets has been disruptive, and in some cases abusive to officials, coaches, athletes and meet staff. In many cases, this misbehavior has gone unchecked, and in some cases, there has been recurring incidents from the same person(s). This behavior also has had an impact on retaining some volunteers.

Purpose

The purpose of the Z1S Spectator Code of Conduct is as follows:

- Clearly states what is/is not acceptable behavior for spectators & parents.
- Spells-out the consequence of not following the Spectator Code of Conduct.
- Empowers Meet Directors and Meet Referees to take immediate action at the swim meet.

Implementation

- Send Spectator Code of Conduct to all Z1S Clubs to share with their parents.
- Post Spectator Code of Conduct in key locations at swim meets – check-in, starting area, results (responsibility of the Meet Director/Referee).
- Provide reference to Spectator Code of Conduct in Meet sheets (link to Pac Swimming website).
- Implementation proposed for Fall 2019, but will begin socializing with Meet Directors and Meet Referees immediately.

Pacific Swimming Zone 1 South

Swim Meet Spectator Code of Conduct

I will display good sportsmanship and positive support for all athletes, coaches, and volunteers

- I will help censor inappropriate behaviors of others as it reflects poorly and can be hurtful.
- I will not swear, bully, taunt, make fun of, harass, or use noisemakers at any time.
- I will respect the officials and coaches and their decisions.
- I will never question, argue, or confront officials or other meet volunteers at any time.

I understand that USA-S/Pacific Swimming is a sports program that focuses on positive emotional and physical development, teamwork, and sportsmanship.

- I will place the emotional and physical well-being of my child ahead of a personal desire to win.
- I will do my best to make sure that youth sports are a FUN and POSITIVE experience.

I will demand a safe and healthy youth sports environment for my child.

- I will demand an environment that is free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.
- I will only spectate from the sidelines and will not stand in the starting area behind the blocks or a position that obstructs the view of officials, coaches and meet volunteers.
- I will not stand in the starting area during warm-ups.
- I will not take photos or videos behind the starting blocks.
- I will respect and not enter areas designated as athletes/officials/volunteers only.

I will refrain from shouting instructions or coaching from the sideline.

- I understand that shouting instructions to my own child can cause confusion to other athletes and coaches.

I will ensure that I treat swimmers, coaches, officials and meet volunteers with respect regardless of race, sex, creed, or ability.

- I will hold myself and my child accountable to the USA-S and my club's code of conduct.
- I will establish a good line of communication with my child's coach, and bring questions, issues and concerns directly to him/her. My child's coach is responsible for bringing issues to the officials and/or meet staff.

I will familiarize myself with the swimming rules for the meet.

- I will review and abide by the meet rules documented within the meet sheet.

Enforcement of Code of Conduct

Enforcement of the code of conduct will vary based on severity of the issues and complaints up to and including immediate suspension or removal from the venue and reporting back to your club and Pacific swimming. If ejected from a swim meet by a referee (official) or meet director, the spectator must leave the venue immediately, or Law Enforcement will be contacted. Repeated violations could result in permanent suspension from Zone swim meets. Any parent or spectator who is removed from the venue due to violation of this code of conduct is not eligible for a refund.