



Starting September 1, 2021, USA Swimming, its Zones, LSCs and member clubs are required to implement the updated Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) in full. This resource is intended to provide information to the Locker Rooms and Changing Areas section of the policy.

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 Adult Participants from being present in a locker room or changing area at the same time as minor athletes.

Please note that Adult Athletes are Adult Participants. 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 it mean to provide a private or semi-private place for minor athletes that need to change clothes or undress?

A: Minor athletes must have an option of a separate space that is private or semi-private to use if they wish. Examples include, without limitation, bathroom stalls with a door and a pop-up changing tent.

Q: Can adult athletes shower before or after practice or an event if they cannot shower with minor athletes?

A: If an adult athlete meets the Close-in-Age Exception, then the adult athlete is permitted to shower with minor athletes present. Additionally, if the shower is part of a pre- or post-event rinse, and swim apparel is being worn, an adult athlete can shower with a Minor Athlete. Otherwise, it is the responsibility of the adult athlete to shower when minor athletes are not present.

Q: What does the word “expose” mean in Section V?

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. Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to areas of the body exposed while wearing swimwear which conforms to the current concept of the appropriate for the individual’s competition category.

Q: Does this policy only apply to locker rooms at competitions?

A: No. MAAPP applies to any and all locker rooms or changing areas used by Adult Participants and minor athletes in connection to In-Program Contact activities such as 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 Adult Participants must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area unless they meet one of the three exceptions built into the policy.

Q: Can U.S. Masters Swimming (“USMS”) members use a locker room at the same time as minor athletes?

A: An unrelated Adult Participant must not be **alone** with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. If a USMS swimmer meets the definition of an Adult Participant, then the Adult Participant must not be alone with a minor athlete in a locker room or changing area. MAAPP would not prohibit an Adult Participant, or Adult Participant (s) from sharing a locker room or changing area with minor athletes so long as the Adult Participant is not alone in the locker room or changing area with a minor athlete.

Q: Can an athlete deck change?

A: NO. Deck changing is prohibited under USA Swimming rules and by MAAPP. Every team has been sent a pop-up changing cabana to assist in enforcing this rule.



Q: If the club or LSC is using a public facility, how can the club or LSC ensure compliance with this section of MAAPP?

A: MAAPP only applies to Adult Participants and does not extend to the general public. Only Adult Participants are required to adhere to MAAPP.

Q: If two teams use the same practice facility, can the adult athletes from one team share a locker room or changing area with minor athletes from another team?

A: Yes. Athletes from two teams sharing a practice facility would be treated similarly to athletes on the same team so long as the adult athletes are not alone one-on-one with a minor athlete.