



# Safe Sport News

For Further Information Contact Jerry Hayes, Safe Sport Committee Chair at [safesportcoord@virginiawimming.org](mailto:safesportcoord@virginiawimming.org), 571-224-8036.

## New / Amended Provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct

Article 305 of the 2013 USA Swimming Rules and Regulations sets forth various mandatory provisions of the USA Swimming Code of Conduct relating to Athlete Protection. Included are provisions governing Team Travel, Anti-Bullying and Electronic/Social Media.

Among other requirements, each club must develop their own policies governing these three areas, or use model policies developed by USA Swimming.

Additionally, the provisions require that all athletes, parents, coaches and other non-athlete members of the club must review and agree to abide by the club's policies annually. The annual review and agreement provisions create a new administrative requirement for most clubs to document compliance. In order to fulfill the requirement, each team should be able to prove that each individual described above has, in fact, reviewed and agreed to abide by the policies.

It should be obvious that if a serious breach of the policies occurs and the club cannot show compliance with Article 305 and the policies established under it, serious consequences and legal liability for the club could result. In short, effort now will hopefully prevent problems, but will also save serious difficulties later if problems arise.

## Club Safe Sport Coordinators

Most clubs have appointed a Club Safe Sport Coordinator; however, some have not. Please submit the name, email address and telephone number of your club's appointee to Jerry Hayes, [safesportcoord@virginiawimming.org](mailto:safesportcoord@virginiawimming.org), 571-224-8036.

## Posting of Safe Sport Policies

The Virginia Swimming Safe Sport Committee strongly recommends that Safe Sport policies be prominently displayed on the club's website. This will help to prevent the subject from becoming an obscure afterthought when consulting the team's website for information.

### FEATURED ITEM

#### **USA Swimming Safe Sport Handbook**

USA Swimming has published an excellent safe sport handbook. It is available for free download at: [www.usaswimming.org/protect](http://www.usaswimming.org/protect)