

Wildcat Aquatics Code of Conduct (Parents)
Effective September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2005

It is hereby acknowledged and agreed by the undersigned that in consideration of your child (children) being accepted as a member of the Wildcat Aquatics Swim Team that you agree to and understand the following Code of Conduct. The following code will be enforced from September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2005 and will cover all activities pertaining to your involvement as a parent with the Wildcat Aquatics Swim Team, the use of any UK facility, those contracted outside of the university by the team for practice and any other purpose, and also include behavior during scheduled competition times, at all away meets and for the duration of all organized travel arranged by Wildcat Aquatics, Kentucky Swimming, or United States Swimming for the purpose of competition or training. A parent's disregard for the following code in part or in whole may result in but is not limited to action ranging from verbal warning to expulsion from the team. The Director of Wildcat Aquatics will have the final say regarding any disputes toward the action taken.

Parents, please keep in mind the following code of conduct is in accordance with recommendations made by United States Swimming and The American Swim Coaches Association. Ultimately, the goal of such a code is to ensure a positive environment for the development of your swimmer(s). In addition, our intentions are not only to ensure a swimmer's individual maturity but to also promote a positive and encouraging team atmosphere.

- A. Coaching your child (children) during any portion of a workout or competition
 - i. You are involved in one of the few youth sports programs that offer professional coaching. Do not undermine the professional coach by trying to coach your child on the side. Your job is to provide love and support and a safe place to return to at the end of the day. The coach is responsible for the technical part of the job.
 - ii. You should not offer advice on technique or race strategy or any other area that is not yours. And above all, never pay your child for performance. This will only serve to confuse your child concerning the reasons to strive for excellence and weaken the swimmer/coach bond.
- B. Attempting to discuss issues concerning your swimmer(s) with any member of the coaching staff during scheduled workout time
- C. Attempting to discuss issues concerning your swimmer(s) with any member of the coaching staff during competition (excluding emergency situations)
- D. Entering the pool deck during practice or watching practice from any deck level seating (parents are free to attend all practices but may only do so from the balcony level)
- E. Parents are expected to get their children to practice and meets on time – in the event circumstances do not permit your child's (children's) punctual arrival a note is required
- F. Competing with or criticizing the coach in the presence of your child
- G. Imposing your own ambitions on your child (children)
- H. Criticizing officials during competition or in front of your swimmer(s) at any time

- I. Pulling a swimmer from practice or competition early due to dissatisfaction in his/her performance or a disagreement with a staff member
- J. Encouraging your child to focus solely on winning (focusing on the outcome too heavily rather than the process)
- * Be supportive of your child and encourage his/her efforts

Suggestions for contacting coaches:

Please be considerate when contacting the coaches. A good way to speak with the coaches is to meet them after practice. They usually make themselves available for 10 minutes to answer questions, provide information, etc. Sending a note with your swimmer is also a good way to get information to coaches. Otherwise, call the office 277-7946 or send an email to the attention of the coach you would like to address. A coach should not be contacted at home unless an extreme emergency is at hand or he/she has confidentially extended that privilege by offering you his/her personal number.

One of the traditional swim team communication gaps is that some parents seem to feel more comfortable in discussing their disagreements over coaching philosophy with other parents rather than taking them directly to the coach. Not only is the problem never resolved but in fact this approach often results in new problems being created.

- 1) Try to keep foremost in your mind that you and the coach have the best interest of your child at heart. If you trust that the coach's goals match yours, even though his/her approach may be different, you are more likely to enjoy a good rapport and a constructive dialogue.
- 2) Keep in mind that the coach must balance your perspective of what is best for your child with the needs of the team or the training group that can range in size from 20-200 members. On occasion, an individual child's needs may need to be subordinate to the interests of the group, but in the long run the benefits of membership in the group compensate for occasional short-term inconvenience.

All participants of Wildcat Aquatics agree to the rules and guidelines as set forth in the Wildcat Aquatics Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the staff reserves the right to discipline and (or) remove a parent if adherence to such guidelines and rules are not met.

DATE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

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