

**CODE
OF
CONDUCT
FOR PARENTS OF THE
DELAWARE SWIM TEAM**

The following standards have been created to clarify the acceptable practice and meet behaviors for parents of swimmers on the Delaware Swim Team

1/272010

DST Team Practices:

- **Parents are not permitted on the pool deck when a practice is progress.**
 - o Each facility offers unique venues for parents to observe their swimmers practice. As a result the boundaries of where the pool deck/ practice area begins and ends can be up for personal interpretation. Parents who have knowledge of these boundaries, yet deliberately disregard them, may be subject to facility restrictions. Listed is a clarification of these boundaries:
 - **DSFC New Castle:** The practice area is defined as such: the deck outside of the double glass doors in the lobby, inside the exit door on the pool deck, and the area directly located outside of the men's and women's locker room showers. Parents who choose to observe practice are invited to sit in the lobby or the seating located on the 2nd floor balcony above the pool.
 - **DSFC Pike Creek:** The practice area is defined as such: the deck located inside the door located at the bottom of the 2nd floor stairwell, the deck directly outside of the pool entrances for Men's and Women's' locker rooms, and deck inside the exit door located next to the pool. Parents who choose to observe practice are invited to sit at tables provided under the stairwell. Seating is also available along the hallway leading to the fitness center. Observing practice from the stairway is not permitted as it is a fire violation.
 - **University of Delaware CIP:** The practice area is defined as such: All deck surrounding the pool on the lower level of the facility. Areas outside Men's and Women's locker rooms are for swimmer and coaches only. Parents who choose to observe practice are invited to sit in the stands on the main floor of the building.
 - **Newark Senior Center:** The practice area is defined as such: The deck directly inside the entrance to the pool. Parents who choose to observe practice are invited to do so in the waiting room located out side of the men's and women's lockers rooms. The facilities library and main lobby is also open to all DST families, and are the encouraged waiting area for the parents of practicing swimmers.
 - **PS DuPont Middle School:** The practice area is defined as such: The deck located in front of the provided seating areas. The facility offers bleachers, as well as tables with chairs, which are located along the wall directly to the right and left of the pool deck entrance. Parents who choose to observe practice are expected to utilize these areas only. Observing parents are not permitted on the deck outside of the provided seating area.
 - **Concord High School:** The practice area is defined as such: The deck located in front of the provided seating areas. The facility offers bleachers which are located along the wall directly to the right of the pool deck entrance. Parents who choose to observe practice are expected to utilize this area only. Observing parents are not permitted on the deck outside of the provided seating area.

- Addressing a coach on the pool deck should take place before or after a scheduled practice. Questioning a coach while a practice is in progress is not permitted.
- Addressing your swimmer during a practice must be authorized by the primary coach on deck. Parents who desire to speak with their child are asked to wait at the entrance of the practice area until a coach gives them permission to enter. Once on the pool deck, a parent who has been permitted to enter is asked to keep their conversation brief. A parent who has concerns for the health or safety of their child may enter the pool deck without permission, but should immediately alert the coach or lifeguard of their presence, and approach the situation in a calm and controlled manner.
- **Parents sitting in a designated practice observation area are expected to show respect for the swimmers in the pool, coaches on deck, and surrounding parents at all times.**
 - Communication between the swimmers in the pool/coaches on the deck and parents sitting in a designated practice observation area is generally frowned upon by the members of the DST coaching staff. Coaching, signaling, or criticizing a swimmer or coach during a practice will not be permitted. Signs of encouragement such as a thumb up, a wave, or a smile are welcome. Any communication between a practicing swimmer and an observing parent witnessed by the coach on deck may be deemed inappropriate and result in observation restrictions for that parent.
 - Disparaging comments or opinions of any DST swimmer, coach, or family should not be voiced, for others to hear, while observing practice at a DST facility. DST is working to build a strong sense of TEAM within our swimmers and parents, and comments or behavior deemed harmful to this effort will not be accepted. Concerns that may cause a parent to voice such comments should be communicated to the staff. Parents perceived to intentionally convey a negative message to members of our team may receive facility restrictions.
- **Respect for the facility, team members, and members or customers of a practice facility should be evident at all times.**
 - Each swimmer and parent should be respectful of the fact that they share their practice facility with a number of different groups.
 - Appropriate language and conversation are expected at all times. Loud, aggressive, or rough behavior is not permitted within our facilities.
 - Parents should monitor their child's behavior within the locker rooms. Locker rooms should be kept clean, and free of clutter at all times.
 - Inappropriate practice or locker room behavior witnessed by parents should be reported to the DST office. Parents are expected not to verbally correct, confront, or discipline any swimmer other than their own. If a parent feels that a situation requires immediate attention, a DST or facility staff member should be informed right away. Any behavior deemed inappropriate or disrespectful may result in facility restrictions for the parties involved.

- Physical discipline of any kind is not permitted. Any individual who is witnessed physically disciplining their child will be subject to immediate facility restrictions.
- Parents attending a practice Delaware Swim and Fitness New Castle or Pike Creek must have a paid membership to that facility in order to use the exercise area. Discounts for DST members are available at both Delaware Swim & Fitness Locations.

DST TEAM COMPETITIONS:

- **Unless volunteering as a meet worker, parents are not permitted on the pool deck during competition.**
 - The parents of swimmers competing at team attended meet are not permitted on the pool deck while warm-up and competition is in progress. Exceptions to this rule are as follows:
 - A parent who has concerns for the health or safety of their child may enter the pool deck without permission, but should immediately alert the coach or lifeguard of their presence, and approach the situation in a calm and controlled manner.
 - A parent who desires to volunteer their time as a meet worker are encouraged to do so, and are welcome on the pool deck during competition.
 - Communication between competing swimmers/ coaches and volunteering parents is generally frowned upon by the members of the DST coaching staff. Volunteering parents calling, texting, coaching, signaling, or criticizing a swimmer or coach during a competition is not permitted. Signs of encouragement such as positive cheering, a thumb up, a wave, or a smile are welcome. Communication which occurs between a competing swimmer/coach and a volunteering parent should be kept brief. Any communication between a competing swimmer/coach and a volunteering parent that is deemed inappropriate by the staff will result in meet attendance restrictions for that parent.
 - Parents of swimmers competing at a *Mini Meet* are permitted to assist their child on the pool deck before and after competition. The parameters for assistance of a Mini Meet swimmer are as follows.
 - Parents may help their swimmer find the designated team seating area and their primary coach.
 - Parents may assist their swimmers with the set up and clean up of their personal seating area. Unpacking their child's swim bag, finding their goggles and cap, laying out a towel, or setting up a folding chair are examples of welcomed assistance on the pool deck.
 - Select parents may be asked to assist the staff during the course of a competition. Staff members will organize and instruct such parents of their responsibilities. Parents asked to assist the staff are expected to strictly follow the instructions of the coach they are working with.
- **Parents attending a team competition are expected to show respect for the swimmers in the pool, coaches and officials on deck, and surrounding parents at all times.**
 - Communication between the swimmers in the pool/coaches on the deck and parents sitting in a designated competition viewing area is generally

frowned upon by the members of the DST coaching staff. Calling, coaching, texting, signaling, or criticizing a swimmer or coach during competition will not be permitted. Signs of encouragement such as positive cheering, a thumb up, a wave, or a smile are welcome. Any communication between a competing swimmer/coach and an attending parent may be deemed inappropriate and result in meet attendance restrictions for that parent.

- Disparaging comments or opinions of any DST swimmer, coach, official, or family should not be voiced, for others to hear, while attending a DST team meet. DST is working to build a strong sense of TEAM within our swimmers and parents, and comments or behavior deemed harmful to this effort will not be accepted. Concerns that may cause a parent to voice such comments should be communicated to the staff before or after the meet session. Parents perceived to intentionally convey a negative message to other members of our or any team are subject to meet attendance restrictions.
- **Respect for the competition facility, team members, and members of other teams attending at team competition should be evident at all times.**
 - Each swimmer and parent should be respectful of the fact that they are taking part in a competition experience shared by numerous groups.
 - Appropriate language and conversation are expected at all times. Loud, aggressive, or rough behavior is not permitted at team competitions.
 - Parents should monitor their child's behavior within the locker rooms.
 - Inappropriate pool deck or locker room behavior witnessed by parents should be reported to the DST office. Parents are expected not to verbally correct, confront, or discipline any swimmer other than their own. If a parent feels that a situation requires immediate attention, a DST or facility staff member should be informed right away. Any behavior deemed inappropriate or disrespectful may result in facility restrictions for the parties involved.
 - Physical discipline of any kind is not permitted. Any individual who is witnessed physically disciplining a child will be subject to immediate facility restrictions.
 - Parents attending a team competition should be aware they are representing DST, and any behavior such as public berating of swimmers or coaches, unsportsmanlike remarks, or the intentional disrespect of the coaches authority will not be tolerated. Parent behavior deemed unacceptable by a staff member may result in competition restrictions for the parties involved.

The standards outlined in this statement are subject to regular review, and may be revised, adjusted, and/or amended as the DST staff deems necessary

1/27/10