

Memorial Spring Branch Swimming Conference **Sportsmanship Policy**

The ultimate goal of the MSBSC is to provide a fun and competitive experience for all involved. One of those goals is to set and maintain high standards of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity in our conference. It is up to us to provide the direction and constant vigilance under which good sportsmanship can prosper and have a positive impact on our children and us.

The values of the lessons learned by exhibiting good sportsmanship will last a lifetime. If we ever lose sight of that, then our program is not worth sponsoring.

Sportsmanship is character displayed through athletic competition. Character is defined by the universal values that define a good person: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Good sportsmanship for all participants, which includes swimmers, volunteers, coaches and spectators, is mandatory.

There will be a “3 strikes” policy in effect: first is a warning, second is removal from meet and subsequent meet, and the third is league suspension for remainder of the season and subsequent season if deemed necessary by the MSBSC Board of Directors.

Below is what is expected of MSBSC participants:

Swimmers

Good sportsmanship is mandatory for all swimmers, regardless of age. Treat opponents the way you would like to be treated, as a guest or a friend. Wish opponents good luck before the race and congratulate them in a courteous manner following either victory or defeat. Respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. The officials are doing their best to help promote you and your sport. Treating them with respect will only make a positive impression of you and your team.

Use of vulgar or foul language will not be tolerated.

Un-sportsman like conduct will not be tolerated.

There will be no jumping in the pool after winning a meet.

All coaches and team parents (i.e. Ready Bench, Mother Hen’s, etc) will be responsible for keeping the swimmers in check and following good sportsmanship. Any swimmer who maintains un-sportsmanship conduct will be reported to their Head Coach, their parents and the Meet Director. This shall be considered their first warning.

If a swimmer continues to maintain un-sportsman like conduct after the official warning, that individual will subsequently be removed from the meet and suspended for the following meet.

Upon returning from suspension, should the swimmer continue to maintain un-sportsman like behavior, that individual will be banned from the league for the remainder of the season. Further suspension will be at the discretion of the MSBSC board.

Parents

We are asking for your support in promoting good sportsmanship by emphasizing to your son or daughter what is expected of them at an athletic event as a competitor or spectator. We urge you to ask your children to demonstrate self-control and self-discipline and at the same time enjoy swimming. We ask that you set a good example when watching or working at a swim meet. Some sample guidelines of what we expect from our parents are attached. Parents will be held to a higher level of accountability and are asked to set good examples as it relates to good sportsmanship.

Use of vulgar or foul language will not be tolerated.

Physical contact or abuse will not be tolerated.

Fighting, arguing or verbal 'back stabbing' of coaches, parents, officials and children will not be tolerated.

Any parent who maintains un-sportsman like conduct will be reported to their Head Coach, their League Rep and the Meet Director. This shall be considered their first warning. Should this parent be a meet official/volunteer, they shall be replaced immediately by the League Rep for that individual's team.

If a parent continues to maintain un-sportsmanlike conduct after the official warning, that individual will subsequently be removed from the meet and suspended for the following meet.

Upon returning from suspension, should the swimmer continue to maintain un-sportsman like behavior, that individual will be banned from the league for the remainder of the season. Further suspension will be at the discretion of the MSBSC board.

Coaches

All Head Coaches and their assistants must maintain good sportsmanship. They will be held to a higher level of accountability and are asked to set good examples as it relates to good sportsmanship. They will exemplify the highest moral character, behavior and leadership, adhering to strong ethical and integrity standards. Coaches will instruct participants and spectators in proper sportsmanship responsibilities and demand that they make sportsman the No. 1 priority. They will respect the integrity and judgment of the officials. Coaches will be no party of the use of profanity, obscene language or improper actions.

Use of vulgar or foul language will not be tolerated.

Physical contact or abuse will not be tolerated.

Fighting, arguing or verbal ‘back stabbing’ of coaches, parents, officials and children will not be tolerated.

Any Coach who maintains un-sportsman like conduct will be reported to their League Rep and the Meet Director. This shall be considered their first warning.

If a coach continues to maintain un-sportsmanlike conduct after the official warning, that individual will subsequently be removed from the meet and suspended for the following meet.

Upon returning from suspension, should the swimmer continue to maintain un-sportsman like behavior, that individual will be banned from the league for the remainder of the season. Further suspension will be at the discretion of the MSBSC board.

Meet Officials (excluding Meet Director)

See comments under Parents.

Meet Director

Meet Directors will always maintain good sportsmanship. Because they are the “referee or umpire” they are to listen, diffuse and resolve any situation with objectivity. They will be held to the highest level of accountability and are asked to always set good examples as it relates to good sportsmanship.

Use of vulgar or foul language will not be tolerated.

Physical contact or abuse will not be tolerated.

Fighting, arguing or verbal ‘back stabbing’ of coaches, parents, officials and children will not be tolerated.

Exploitation of power will not be tolerated.

Any Meet Director who maintains un-sportsman like conduct will be reported to the League Representatives from both teams who are at the meet. Should it be determined that the Meet Director is in violation of good sportsmanship policies, they shall be replaced immediately by the League Rep for that individuals team.

If this individual continues to maintain un-sportsmanlike conduct after being replaced, that individual will subsequently be removed from the meet and suspended for the following meet.

Upon returning from suspension, should the Meet Director continue to maintain un-sportsman like behavior, that individual will be banned from the league for the remainder of the season and following season. Further suspension will be at the discretion of the MSBSC board.