

JCAT Locker Room, Changing Area & Bathroom Supervision Policy — 2026

Effective: 2026

JCAT Swim

Purpose

This policy establishes JCAT Swim's day-to-day procedures for supervising locker rooms, changing areas, and bathroom breaks during practices, competitions, and other JCAT activities. Its purpose is to protect athlete safety and privacy while maintaining compliance with the JCAT Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP).

Relationship to MAAPP

This policy supplements, and does not replace, the JCAT Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP). All Adult Participants must comply with MAAPP requirements governing locker rooms, changing areas, one-on-one interactions, observable and interruptible contact, recording devices, undress, showers, and monitoring. If this operational policy conflicts with MAAPP, MAAPP controls.

General Standards

- Athlete safety, privacy, dignity, and appropriate conduct are priorities at all JCAT activities.
- Athletes must use designated locker rooms or changing areas when changing into or out of a swimsuit when wearing only one suit. Deck changing is prohibited.
- Photography, video recording, voice recording, or use of any device's recording capability is prohibited in locker rooms, changing areas, bathrooms, and similar areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy, except for any narrowly applicable exception expressly permitted by MAAPP.
- Adult Participant interactions with Minor Athletes in locker rooms, changing areas, or similar spaces must remain observable and interruptible unless a MAAPP exception applies.
- JCAT will make reasonable efforts to communicate these standards to athletes, parents/legal guardians, coaches, staff, and applicable volunteers.

Locker Room and Changing Area Monitoring

JCAT will regularly and randomly monitor locker rooms and changing areas consistent with MAAPP.

Monitoring is intended to promote safety and policy compliance without unnecessarily intruding on athlete privacy.

- Conducting a sweep of the locker room or changing area before athletes arrive.
- Positioning an appropriate Adult Participant outside the locker room or changing area during periods of use.
- Leaving doors open when adequate privacy can still be maintained.
- Conducting occasional appropriate sweeps of locker rooms or changing areas consistent with MAAPP requirements.
- Making reasonable efforts to recognize when a Minor Athlete leaves practice for a locker room, changing area, or bathroom and checking on the athlete's whereabouts if the athlete does not return in a timely manner.

Bathroom Breaks During Practice

- Athletes should notify a coach before leaving the practice area to use the bathroom or locker room so the coaching staff knows the athlete has left the pool or deck.
- Coaches should allow a reasonable amount of time for the athlete to use the facility. JCAT does not require an athlete to complete a bathroom break within a rigid or punitive time limit.
- If an athlete does not return within a reasonable period, an appropriate Adult Participant or parent/legal guardian should check on the athlete's whereabouts in a manner consistent with MAAPP, athlete privacy, and the facility's rules.

- An athlete should never be denied reasonable access to a bathroom because of practice or training requirements.

Younger Athletes and Assistance

Parents/legal guardians remain responsible for providing age-appropriate personal assistance to younger children when needed. JCAT will not use a blanket age rule that authorizes any team member or unrelated adult to escort a Minor Athlete into a locker room or bathroom.

- When a young athlete requires assistance, a parent/legal guardian should provide that assistance whenever reasonably available.
- Any assistance or supervision involving an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must comply with MAAPP, including applicable observable-and-interruptible requirements.
- Athletes who are capable of using the facilities independently may do so. JCAT encourages appropriate buddy practices among athletes when practical, but a buddy system does not replace MAAPP requirements.

Parent and Guardian Access

Parents/legal guardians who enter a locker room or changing area must comply with facility rules and JCAT/MAAPP requirements. When applicable, JCAT follows the MAAPP recommendation that a parent/legal guardian entering a locker room or changing area be of the same competition category and notify a coach or administrator in advance.

Expected Conduct

- Harassment, bullying, hazing, intimidation, sexual misconduct, inappropriate exposure, inappropriate touching, threatening behavior, and other conduct inconsistent with JCAT, USA Swimming, or Safe Sport requirements are prohibited.
- Athletes and adults must respect the privacy of others using locker rooms, changing areas, bathrooms, and showers.
- No person may use a locker room, bathroom, or changing area to photograph, record, harass, intimidate, or deliberately invade another person's privacy.

Reporting Locker Room or Bathroom Concerns

Safety concerns and policy violations should be reported promptly. The appropriate reporting route depends on the nature of the allegation.

- Immediate danger or an emergency: contact 911 or appropriate emergency authorities.
- Known or suspected child abuse or neglect: report to the appropriate child-protection or law-enforcement authority as required by law.
- Matters within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Center for SafeSport must be reported through the Center's applicable reporting process.
- USA Swimming Safe Sport or MAAPP matters should be reported through the applicable USA Swimming reporting process when required or appropriate.
- Club-level matters, including ordinary team-rule violations, peer-to-peer issues, or other conduct appropriate for JCAT resolution, should be reported under the JCAT Grievance Procedure.

Handling Reports and Misconduct

JCAT will not treat every locker-room allegation as an internal disciplinary matter. Reports will first be evaluated for the appropriate reporting and jurisdictional route. JCAT will not interfere with, delay, or substitute its internal process for a report that must be made to the U.S. Center for SafeSport, USA Swimming, law enforcement, child-protection authorities, or another appropriate authority.

- For matters properly handled at the club level, JCAT may gather relevant information, speak with involved individuals and witnesses, and document the concern.

- Club-level disciplinary action may include a verbal or written warning, removal from a practice or activity, parent/legal guardian notification, temporary suspension, or dismissal from JCAT, depending on the nature and severity of the conduct and applicable policies.
- JCAT may take reasonable interim safety measures while a concern is being addressed.
- Information concerning reports will be shared only as appropriate for safety, reporting, investigation, disciplinary, or legal purposes. JCAT cannot promise absolute confidentiality when disclosure is required to address or report a concern.
- Retaliation against a person for making a good-faith report or participating in an applicable review or investigation is prohibited.

Education and Communication

- JCAT will make this policy available to athletes, parents/legal guardians, coaches, staff, and applicable volunteers.
- Coaches, staff, and Adult Participants are expected to understand the MAAPP provisions applicable to locker rooms, changing areas, bathrooms, and athlete supervision.
- Parents/legal guardians are encouraged to review locker-room and facility expectations with their athletes, including privacy, appropriate behavior, reporting concerns, and notifying coaches before leaving practice.

Policy Review

JCAT may review and update this operational policy as needed to remain consistent with current USA Swimming Safe Sport requirements, MAAPP, applicable law, and facility rules. Any update to this policy does not alter or reduce mandatory MAAPP requirements.

Related JCAT Policies

- JCAT Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) — 2026
- JCAT Grievance Procedure — 2026
- JCAT Photography & Video Policy — 2026
- JCAT Parent & Athlete Code of Conduct — 2026