



USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs and member clubs are required to implement this Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy in full. The Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy must be reviewed and agreed to in writing by all athletes, parents/legal guardians, coaches and other non-athlete members of member clubs on an annual basis with such written agreement to be retained by the club or LSC, as applicable.

**Adult Participants:** Any adult 18 years of age or older who is a:

- USA Swimming member, either athlete or non-athlete;
- Participating non-member (e.g., meet marshals, meet computer operators, timers, etc.);
- Authorized, approved or appointed by USA Swimming, Zones, Local Swimming Committees ("LSCs") or member clubs to have Regular Contact with (e.g., ongoing interactions during a 12- month period wherein the individual is in a role of active engagement) or authority over minor athletes; and/or
- Within the governance or disciplinary jurisdiction of USA Swimming, Zones, LSCs or member clubs.

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** When am I an Adult Participant?

**A:** Once you trigger any of the four descriptions of an Adult Participant you are an Adult Participant.

**Q:** How long do I retain Adult Participant status?

**A:** An individual is an Adult Participant for as long as one of the four descriptions applies to that individual.

**Q:** How is "adult athlete" defined?

**A:** An adult athlete is an athlete member age 18 and over.

**Q:** Are chaperones Adult Participants?

**A:** Yes. Chaperones are adults authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete and therefore trigger Adult Participant status. Chaperones are required to be members of USA Swimming and must therefore successfully complete membership requirements.

**Q:** Are junior coaches Adult Participants?

**A:** No. Because Junior coaches are under the age of 18 they are not considered Adult Participants. Junior coaches are perceived to be in a position of power or authority over minor athletes whom they coach.

**Q:** Are meet volunteers considered Adult Participants?

**A:** Yes. A meet volunteer is an Adult Participant if the volunteer triggers any of the four descriptions of an Adult Participant. For example if the volunteer is a timer they trigger the participating non-member definition of an Adult Participant and therefore must follow the requirements of MAAPP during their volunteer duties.

**Q:** Do all Adult Participants have to become USA Swimming members and complete APT and a background check, specifically those participating non-members?

**A:** No. MAAPP applies to Adult Participants. The APT requirement of membership applies to USA Swimming members. Participating non-members, by definition, are not USA Swimming members and do not have complete the requirements of membership. The requirements to become a member can be found in Article 2 of the USA Swimming Corporate Bylaws.

**Q:** Is a U.S. Masters Swimming ("USMS") member an Adult Participant?

**A:** USMS is its own entity from USA Swimming. An individual is an Adult Participant if he or she meets any of the four descriptions of an Adult Participant, so a USMS member may be "Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete." However, we would not



consider a USMS member who only has contact with a minor athlete by virtue of being at the same competition to meet this standard and be considered an Adult Participant. By comparison, a USMS member who regularly trains with minor athletes at practice would be more likely to meet this standard.

**Q:** What does “authority” mean when referencing Adult Participants in MAAPP?

**A:** When one person’s position over another person is such that, based on the totality of the circumstances, they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person (e.g., when a power imbalance exists). A coach always has this perceived power over or power imbalance between him or herself and the minor athlete. A volunteer or participating non-member, depending on their role, might have that perceived power only while fulfilling their volunteer roles.

**Q:** Do volunteers at meets have to fulfill the General Requirement section of MAAPP?

**A:** If the volunteer meets the requirements of being an Adult Participant, then they are required to follow MAAPP during their volunteer duties. Therefore, the volunteer must review and agree to MAAPP prior to stepping into their role. One way to ensure that these volunteers are aware of the MAAPP requirements is to include the expectations in meet briefings or meet information, or verbally highlighting the expectations for volunteers.

**Q:** Does MAAPP apply to meet volunteers at all times?

**A:** Meet volunteers must follow MAAPP during the time that they trigger Adult Participant status. For example, if a meet volunteer is authorized to have regular contact with or authority over minor athletes during one morning session at the meet but does not volunteer at any other point in the meet, that individual is an Adult Participant during the one morning session.

**Q:** Are sanctioned meets required to include information about MAAPP in their meet information?

**A:** Yes. It is a requirement to provide information about MAAPP in meet information. This language can be found in the requirements of the [Safe Sport Meet 360 document](#).

**Q:** Are all adults that use a shared facility (which is also used by a member club for purposes of practice or competition) considered Adult Participants?

**A:** No. An individual is an Adult Participant if he or she meets any of the four descriptions of an Adult Participant, so an adult member of the general public may be “Any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete.” However, we would not consider an adult member of the general public who only has contact with a minor athlete by virtue of being at the same shared facility to meet this standard and be considered an Adult Participant.