



Synchronized Swimming Australia Inc.  
(SSAI)

## CODES OF CONDUCT

### **Introduction**

Synchronized Swimming Australia Inc (**SSAI**) has adopted two Codes of Conduct:

(a) The General Code of Conduct

This relates to the behaviour of members, swimmers, volunteers and officials.

(b) The Code of Conduct for those dealing with Children

This relates to the behaviour of anyone dealing with children participating in the sport.

### **General**

Those involved in the Sport as officials or volunteers will be expected to comply with the Codes of Conduct.

Those involved in the Sport as athletes will be expected to comply with the General Code of Conduct.

The Codes of Conduct form part of a number of SSAI policies which are available on SSAI's website.

Failure to observe the Codes of Conduct may be treated as a disciplinary matter.

## The General Code of Conduct

SSAI expects everyone involved in the Sport of artistic swimming in any capacity whatsoever observes the following principles:

- (a) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of yourself, others and the environment around you;
- (b) Be ethical, considerate, fair, courteous and honest in your dealings with others;
- (c) Be professional in, and accept responsibility for, your actions;
- (d) Be aware of and adhere to SSAI standards, rules, regulations and policies;
- (e) Operate within the rules and spirit of the Sport, whether national or international;
- (f) Do not bully, abuse, discriminate against or victimise others;
- (g) Be a good role model and ambassador for the Sport;
- (h) Refrain from any behaviour that may bring SSAI, a Member Association or a Club into disrepute.
- (i) Respect and protect confidential information;
- (j) Maintain the required standard of accreditation for your role;
- (k) Show concern, empathy and caution towards others who may be sick or injured;
- (l) Ensure physical contact with others is appropriate to the situation e.g. necessary for a person's skill development;
- (m) Raise concerns about decisions or behaviour with the relevant person in a timely manner;
- (n) Use social media responsibly;
- (o) Not publicly disparage those involved in the Sport;
- (p) Not do or say anything that brings the Sport into disrepute.

## The Code of Conduct for those dealing with Children

SSAI expects everyone involved in the sport of synchronized swimming in the capacity of an official or a volunteer observe the following principles:

- (a) Language and tone of voice used in the presence of children should:
  - i. provide clear direction;
  - ii. be encouraging;
  - iii. not be belittling, insulting or derogatory;
  - iv. not be racist, sexist or discriminatory;
  - v. not be threatening;
  - vi. not be sexual;
  - vii. not include swearing.
  
- (b) Electronic or other communications:
  - i. should be sent to parents/caregivers rather than direct to children;
  - ii. where (i) is not possible or practical, then communications sent to children should be copied to their parent/caregiver;
  - iii. should be limited to information directly associated to delivering activities or programs;
  - iv. should be polite and professional in tone.
  
- (c) Physical contact:
  - i. must be appropriate to the delivery of synchronized swimming services, programs and activities;
  - ii. must not involve corporal punishment;
  - iii. must not be unnecessary e.g. horseplay or roughhousing;
  - iv. must not be against the wishes of the child except in an emergency or to prevent injury to the child e.g. restraining a child from stepping out in front of a vehicle;
  - v. must not be sexual.
  
- (d) Guidance strategies by coaches and other officials must be:
  - i. positive;
  - ii. fair;
  - iii. respectful;
  - iv. appropriate to the age of the athlete.

(e) Officials and volunteers should:

- i. not provide unauthorised transport;
- ii. be alert to any form of bullying between athletes and either act to resolve it or report it to a more senior person;
- iii. avoid unsupervised situations with children.
- iv. Demonstrate a high degree of individual responsibility especially when dealing with any person under 18 years of age, as your words and actions are an example.

(f) If involved in billeting children, officials and volunteers should:

- i. provide appropriate supervision;
- ii. facilitate contact between children being billeted and their parents/caregivers;
- iii. not allow exposure to adult nudity or inappropriate material e.g. pornography;
- iv. ensure appropriate sleeping arrangements: children may share rooms with other children but not with other adults;
- v. not allow access to alcohol or drugs;
- vi. provide adequate amounts of healthy food and snacks.

(g) Requirements for changing rooms: officials and volunteers are required to supervise children while balancing their right to privacy. They must:

- i. avoid one-on-one situations with a child in a change room;
- ii. must not undress in front of children unless also competing in an event or training session;
- iii. provide adequate supervision in 'public' changing rooms.

(h) While carrying out their roles officials and volunteers must not use, possess or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

(i) Working with Children Checks (WCC)

- i. all coaches must have a WCC;
- ii. other officials or volunteers should have a WCC if the law of their State requires it;
- iii. judges, members of club committees, state and national boards are encouraged to have a WCC even if not required by law;
- iv. all adults over 18 in houses where children are billeted should have a WCC.