

Fair Play Code of Conduct for Gators Parents

Children enrolled in the Killarney Gators Swim Club participate in the program for fun, exercise and competition. The skills they learn go well beyond what is taught in the pool. The children will take these experiences with them for the rest of their lives. How parents behave is also a learned lesson. When swimmers, coaches, officials, and other parents are not treated with the respect that they deserve, we unfortunately pass these attitudes on to our children. It is this type of lesson that the Killarney Gators Swim Club does not wish to teach. Therefore, like our athletes, parents must also abide by a Code of Conduct.

- I will remember that my child is in an organized sport for his/her enjoyment and not mine. I will not force my child to participate.
- I will make swimming a positive experience for my child as well as for other competitors.
- I will teach my child that doing one's best and making an honest effort are as important as winning and a best time is more important than a trophy or ribbons or a place at Provincials, so that my child will never feel defeated by the outcome of an event. I will make my child feel like a winner every time he/she competes by offering praise for competing fairly and trying hard.
- I will remember that children learn best by example. I will applaud good efforts by my child as well as by other children.
- I will support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from children's sporting activities. In public I will never ridicule or yell at my child for making a mistake or losing a competition. I will never yell at children from another family in public.
- I will encourage my child to play by the rules and to resolve conflicts without resorting to hostility, violence, name calling or offensive language.
- I will never question a swim official's judgment, integrity or honesty in public. I will respect the value of swim officials and acknowledge that they strive to do their job well.
- I will respect and show appreciation for coaches and trained volunteer coaches who give their time to provide sport activities for my child, understanding that I have a responsibility to be a part of my child's development.
- I will never question a volunteer's efforts, integrity or honesty in public. I will respect the value of volunteers and acknowledge that they strive to do their job well.
- If I have a coaching concern I will make arrangements to meet and speak to my child's coach in a private location. I will not go out on the pool deck and disrupt a swim practice or initiate an

exchange on the pool deck, in the pool waiting area, or the community centre. If I still have concerns after I talk to my child's coach I will contact the Head Coach and the executive to resolve the problem.

Harassment incidents will be treated seriously. Mistreating (by yelling at, ridiculing, lying or distributing erroneous or misleading material about a person or details of an incident or event, name calling or using offence language towards) a Gators swimmer or swimmer from another team or a coach or another parent will be considered harassment. A parent found at fault may be asked to provide a verbal apology or a written apology to be produced in a timely fashion. In extreme cases, or in cases of multiple infractions, the family who has caused the harassment will face suspension of their membership or even expulsion from the club. Suspension will be treated as a withdrawal and all refund policies will apply.