EL PASO BORDERLAND AQUATIC TEAM (BLAST)

LOCKER ROOM & CHANGING AREA MONITORING PROCEDURE

1. PURPOSE

The El Paso Borderland Aquatic Team (BLAST) is committed to maintaining a safe, respectful, and positive environment for all athletes.

This procedure establishes consistent practices for monitoring locker rooms, restrooms, changing areas, and similar spaces used by BLAST athletes during practices, competitions, team activities, camps, and other BLAST-related activities.

The purpose of this procedure is to:

- Protect the privacy and dignity of athletes;
- Reduce the risk of abuse, misconduct, bullying, harassment, and inappropriate behavior;
- Ensure compliance with the current USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP);
- Establish clear expectations for coaches, staff, volunteers, athletes, and parents/guardians; and
- Provide a consistent response when concerns arise.

This procedure is intended to supplement, and not replace, the current USA Swimming MAAPP, USA Swimming Rules and Regulations, Safe Sport requirements, facility rules, and applicable BLAST policies.

---

2. SCOPE

This procedure applies whenever BLAST athletes use locker rooms, changing areas, restrooms, showers, family changing areas, or similar spaces during:

- Regular practices;
- Swim meets and competitions;
- Team travel;
- Camps and clinics;
- Team functions;
- Dryland or conditioning activities; and
- Other activities conducted under BLAST’s supervision or jurisdiction.

The procedure applies to BLAST coaches, staff, board members, volunteers, athletes, adult athletes, parents/guardians, and other individuals participating in BLAST activities as applicable.

---

3. FACILITY EXPECTATIONS

BLAST may use facilities that are owned or operated by the City of El Paso, schools, YMCA facilities, private aquatic facilities, or other organizations.

Because facilities may be shared with the public or other teams, BLAST athletes and adults must comply with:

1. BLAST policies;
2. Current USA Swimming MAAPP requirements;
3. USA Swimming rules and Safe Sport requirements; and
4. The rules and policies of the facility being used.

Before each practice or competition, the coach or designated BLAST representative should be familiar with the available changing areas and any facility-specific requirements.

Whenever possible, BLAST should identify a **private or semi-private area** for Minor Athletes who need to change clothes or undress.

---

4. DESIGNATED CHANGING AREAS

Athletes are expected to use designated locker rooms, changing areas, or private/semi-private changing spaces when changing into or out of swimwear.

Deck changing is prohibited.

Athletes should not change clothes:

- On the pool deck;
- Behind starting blocks;
- On bleachers;
- In hallways;
- In public areas; or
- In any other location where the athlete does not have an appropriate expectation of privacy.

Coaches and staff should remind athletes of this requirement whenever necessary.

5. ADULT PARTICIPANTS IN LOCKER ROOMS

BLAST will follow USA Swimming MAAPP requirements concerning Adult Participants and Minor Athletes in locker rooms and changing areas.

Interactions between Adult Participants and Minor Athletes in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces must be **observable and interruptible**, except where an applicable MAAPP exception applies.

BLAST coaches, staff, and volunteers should avoid entering locker rooms or changing areas whenever their presence is not necessary.

When an adult must enter a locker room or changing area for a legitimate reason, the adult should:

1. Announce their presence before entering whenever practical;
2. Avoid being alone with a Minor Athlete;
3. Maintain an observable and interruptible interaction;
4. Remain in the area only as long as necessary; and
5. Respect the privacy of athletes who are changing or showering.

Whenever practical, another adult should accompany a staff member who must enter a locker room.

---

6. PARENT/GUARDIAN ACCESS

Parents and guardians should generally not enter locker rooms or changing areas during BLAST activities unless their presence is necessary.

Examples of legitimate circumstances may include:

- A young athlete requiring assistance;
- An athlete with a disability requiring assistance;
- A medical or safety emergency; or
- Another situation in which assistance is reasonably necessary.

Parents/guardians entering a locker room should:

- Notify BLAST staff when practical;
- Enter only for the purpose requiring assistance;
- Respect the privacy of all athletes;
- Avoid unnecessary interaction with other athletes; and

- Leave promptly once assistance has been provided.

BLAST will comply with any applicable USA Swimming MAAPP requirements regarding parents/legal guardians and Adult Participants.

---

7. LOCKER ROOM MONITORING

BLAST will **regularly and randomly monitor** locker rooms and changing areas to promote athlete safety and compliance with MAAPP.

Monitoring should be conducted in a manner that protects athlete privacy.

BLAST may use one or more of the following monitoring methods:

A. Pre-Activity Sweep

A coach or designated BLAST staff member should conduct a brief sweep of the locker room or changing area before athletes arrive whenever practical.

The purpose of the sweep is to identify obvious safety concerns, unauthorized individuals, prohibited recording devices, or other concerning circumstances.

B. Staff Presence Outside the Area

When appropriate and practical, a BLAST staff member may remain near the entrance to the locker room or changing area while athletes are using the facility.

Staff should not position themselves in a manner that unnecessarily compromises athlete privacy.

C. Periodic Random Sweeps

BLAST staff should conduct occasional, brief and random sweeps during practices and competitions.

Sweeps should be:

- Brief;
- Conducted for safety and compliance purposes;
- Respectful of athlete privacy; and
- Limited to what is reasonably necessary.

Whenever practical, staff should work in pairs when conducting locker-room checks.

D. Post-Activity Sweep

At the conclusion of practice or a team activity, a coach or designated staff member should conduct a final check of the area when practical.

The purpose is to identify:

- Athletes who may have been left behind;
- Safety concerns;
- Unauthorized individuals;
- Prohibited recording devices; or
- Other obvious concerns.

---

8. ATHLETE ACCOUNTABILITY

BLAST staff should make reasonable efforts to recognize when a Minor Athlete leaves practice or an activity to enter a locker room or changing area.

If an athlete does not return within a reasonable amount of time, staff should make reasonable efforts to determine the athlete's whereabouts.

The response should be appropriate to the circumstances and should prioritize the athlete's safety while respecting privacy.

If a staff member needs to enter the locker room because of a safety concern, the staff member should announce their presence and, whenever practical, have another adult accompany them.

---

9. GENDER-SPECIFIC MONITORING

When a locker-room sweep is necessary, BLAST will make reasonable efforts to have a staff member of the appropriate gender conduct the sweep.

Whenever practical:

- A female staff member should check a female locker room; and
- A male staff member should check a male locker room.

If an immediate safety concern requires a staff member of another gender to enter, the staff member should act as necessary to protect athlete safety while respecting privacy to the greatest extent possible.

BLAST staff should not delay an appropriate safety response solely because a same-gender staff member is unavailable.

---

10. CELL PHONES AND RECORDING DEVICES

In accordance with USA Swimming MAAPP, **the use of recording capabilities of any device—including cell phones, cameras, video cameras, and audio-recording devices—is prohibited in locker rooms, changing areas, and similar spaces.**

This prohibition applies to:

- Minor Athletes;
- Adult Athletes;
- Coaches;
- Staff;
- Volunteers;
- Parents/guardians; and
- Other Adult Participants.

BLAST prohibits:

- Taking photographs;
- Recording video;
- Recording audio;
- Using a phone camera;
- Photographing or recording another athlete;
- Livestreaming;
- Posting locker-room images or recordings to social media; and
- Using another device's recording function in these areas.

Athletes should keep phones and other recording-capable devices secured in a bag, locker, or other appropriate location.

If a phone is needed for an emergency, the athlete should exit the locker room before using it whenever circumstances permit.

---

11. SHOWERS AND CHANGING

BLAST will follow the current USA Swimming MAAPP requirements concerning showers and changing.

Adult Participants should not shower with Minor Athletes except where a specific MAAPP exception applies.

Parents/legal guardians may make a written request that their Minor Athlete not change or shower with Adult Participants during In-Program Contact, and BLAST will follow the applicable MAAPP requirement regarding such requests.

Athletes should use designated changing areas and should not engage in behavior that intentionally exposes private areas of the body to another person.

---

12. LOCKER ROOM CONDUCT

All athletes are expected to behave respectfully and appropriately.

The following behavior is prohibited:

- Bullying;
- Harassment;
- Hazing;
- Threatening behavior;
- Physical aggression;
- Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual behavior;
- Intimidation;
- Profane or abusive language;
- Obscene gestures;
- Taking or using another person’s belongings without permission;
- Damaging facility property;
- Photographing or recording others;
- Sharing inappropriate photographs or recordings; and
- Any conduct that violates the privacy, dignity, or safety of another person.

Athletes should leave locker rooms and changing areas clean and should respect the property of teammates and other facility users.

---

13. REPORTING CONCERNS

Any athlete, parent/guardian, coach, staff member, volunteer, or other person who observes concerning behavior should report the concern promptly.

Reports may be made to:

BLAST Head Coach: _____

BLAST Safe Sport Contact: _____

BLAST Board Representative: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Depending on the nature of the concern, the matter may also need to be reported to USA Swimming Safe Sport, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, law enforcement, or another appropriate authority.

USA Swimming identifies the U.S. Center for SafeSport as having exclusive jurisdiction over sexual misconduct and child-abuse complaints within the Olympic and Paralympic movement.

BLAST will not retaliate against an individual who makes a good-faith report of a safety or Safe Sport concern.

---

14. RESPONSE TO A SAFETY CONCERN

When a potential safety or misconduct concern is identified, BLAST staff should:

1. Prioritize the immediate safety of the athlete(s);
2. Separate individuals when necessary to address an immediate concern;
3. Notify the appropriate BLAST leadership;
4. Document the concern promptly and objectively;
5. Preserve relevant information or evidence when appropriate;
6. Make required reports to USA Swimming, the U.S. Center for SafeSport, law enforcement, or other authorities when applicable; and
7. Follow applicable BLAST disciplinary and Safe Sport procedures.

Staff should not attempt to conduct their own investigation of suspected abuse or sexual misconduct when the matter should be referred to the appropriate Safe Sport or legal authority.

---

15. RESPONSIBILITIES OF BLAST STAFF

BLAST coaches, staff, and designated volunteers are responsible for:

- Understanding current USA Swimming MAAPP requirements;

- Maintaining appropriate boundaries with Minor Athletes;
- Conducting required locker-room monitoring;
- Protecting athlete privacy;
- Preventing unauthorized recording;
- Responding appropriately to safety concerns;
- Reporting suspected violations when required; and
- Modeling appropriate behavior at all times.

USA Swimming states that coaches and volunteers must be educated in applicable USA Swimming policies and club policies, including MAAPP and other Safe Sport requirements.

---

16. DOCUMENTATION

BLAST should maintain appropriate documentation of:

- Reported locker-room concerns;
- Significant safety incidents;
- Policy violations;
- Disciplinary actions, when applicable;
- Required reports; and
- Annual policy acknowledgments.

USA Swimming requires clubs to implement MAAPP in full and requires applicable athletes, parents/legal guardians, coaches, and other non-athlete members of member clubs to review and agree to MAAPP in writing annually.