

Western Tidewater Swim Association Sportsmanship Policy

Sportsmanship

The Western Tidewater Swim Association considers good sportsmanship a top priority. WTSA is committed to providing a positive competitive environment that will maximize swimming performance while building character in all participants. It is the responsibility of every coach, swimmer, and parent to understand and abide by the expectations set forth in the WTSA Sportsmanship Guidelines.

Annual Team Sportsmanship Award

In order to emphasize the importance WTSA places on good sportsmanship, a Sportsmanship Trophy and Banner will be awarded to the swim team demonstrating the highest level of sportsmanship for the summer season as determined by the WTSA Board. The Annual Team Sportsmanship Award will be presented each year at the All Star Meet.

Sportsmanship Guidelines for Coaches, Swimmers, and Parents

The following Sportsmanship Guidelines are offered to promote sportsmanlike conduct among all WTSA coaches, swimmers, and parents, and to serve as criteria for WTSA's Annual Team Sportsmanship Award.

If a single act or pattern of behavior is considered in violation of the Sportsmanship Guidelines below, immediate suspension from a swim meet may result, and upon evaluation by the WTSA Board, up to a one year suspension from WTSA may be recommended.

As a WTSA Coach, I will:

1. Take responsibility for the behavior of my swimmers during all swim meets.
2. Show restraint, composure, and sportsmanlike conduct, and expect the same behaviors from my team.
3. Know, understand, and appreciate WTSA rules and become familiar with how WTSA rules and USA rules work together to govern swim meets.
4. Prevent the appearance of unethical or unsportsmanlike situations by bringing the situation to the attention of others before a problem develops.
5. Treat opponents respectfully at all times, greet them cordially, and provide them the best possible accommodations.
6. Respectfully accept and abide by the decisions of officials.
7. Maintain self-control at all times.
8. Enforce good sportsmanship behaviors and expectations with my swimmers as well as their parents.
9. Lead my team in cleaning up trash in our area following swim meets.
10. Teach my swimmers to lose gracefully and win with humility.
11. Refrain from taunting, booing, arguing, distracting, using profane language or making inappropriate gestures.

As a WTSA Swimmer, I will:

1. Display respect and good sportsmanship toward coaches, swimmers, parents and officials at all times.
2. Accept seriously that I represent my team and my pool.
3. Wish my opponent "good luck" before an event at a swim meet.
4. Shake my opponent's hand after an event, whether I win or lose.
5. Offer to help my opponent out of the pool after an event when needed.

6. Refrain from taunting, booing, arguing, distracting, using profane language or making inappropriate gestures.
7. Respect the decisions of coaches and officials.
8. Accept victory with humility and defeat with grace.
9. Clean up all the trash in my area before leaving.
10. Conduct myself with honesty and integrity at all times.

As a WTSA parent volunteer or spectator, I will:

1. Respect the integrity and judgment of swim meet participants, including all officials.
2. As a spectator, I will not provide information about my perception of the quality of an official's call.
3. I will allow the League Representative and/or Board Representative to manage disputes according to WTSA rules.
4. Conduct myself in a manner which will bring honor to myself, my team, and my pool community.
5. Accept seriously that as a parent, I represent my team and my pool.
6. Make a good faith effort to be friendly toward parents from the opposing team.
7. Refrain from taunting, booing, yelling, distracting, profane language or making inappropriate gestures.
8. Volunteer willingly for needed positions to allow swim meets to run efficiently.
9. Exercise self control at all times.
10. Accept victory with humility and defeat with grace.
11. Congratulate parents on the winning team.
12. Clean up all the trash in my area before leaving.

By signing on the appropriate line below, I acknowledge that I have read the WTSA Sportsmanship Guidelines, and I agree to abide by them. I understand that if I fail to comply with WTSA sportsmanship standards, the WTSA Board may recommend up to a one year suspension from participation in the league.

One document per family:

_____	_____
Coach	Date
_____	_____
Swimmer	Date
_____	_____
Swimmer	Date
_____	_____
Swimmer	Date
_____	_____
Parent /Guardian	Date
_____	_____
Parent /Guardian	Date