

Slippery Rock EELS Swim Team Behavior & Expectation Policy

Swimming requires more assistance from parents than most other sports. The SR Eels keep registration fees low by relying heavily on parent volunteers. The SR Eels is a parent board run organization. All positions, except coaches, are volunteers. Parents are required to volunteer for a variety of duties throughout the season.

The Slippery Rock Eels Swim Team hopes that the parents and swimmers will enjoy their experiences with us this season! Please accept the gratitude of the coaching staff and board in advance for your participation.

The board welcomes suggestions on ways to improve this behavior and expectation policy. The following regulations will be enforced for the season.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Included are duties such as attending occasional parent/board meetings, being on committees for meet coordination, team apparel, awards/banquet, concessions or etc., volunteering at swim meets for tasks such as timing and stroke & turn judging or helping at the concession stand at home meets. Some functions require instruction that will be provided by team officials but many require no instruction or prior experience. Coaches in the league understand that the jobs at swim meets are voluntary and that many of the volunteers are novices.
2. Any parent who assumes responsibility for funds or fundraising materials such as food for concessions, ribbons, team apparel or equipment are required to keep clear records of both money and goods and to turn in all receipts promptly to the treasurer.
3. No parent may make financial arrangements that will obligate the team in any way without the written authorization of the treasurer, in accordance with the team policies.
4. No parent may act as a spokesperson for the team, committee group, league or to the media without being authorized, in writing, by the board.

BEHAVIOR

To be a member of the SR Eels swimmers and parents are required to display appropriate behavior individually and as a group, in order to maintain program safety and quality for all participants.

1. Verbal abuse, physical aggression, disrespect or destructive behavior toward another person or property will not be tolerated.
2. Horseplay and other forms of rough physical behavior are not permitted.
3. The noise level in and around practices is not to exceed a normal speaking voice.
4. All facilities must be treated with respect.
5. Parents and swimmers will restrict their activities to areas authorized for swim team use. There is to be no wandering throughout any building.
6. Swimmers must arrive for practice or team activities not more than 15 minutes early and be fully prepared, dressed and ready to enter the pool at the scheduled time. Swimmers who forget

swimsuits or who are otherwise unable to participate will be asked to call for a ride immediately. They must sit in the pool area until their ride arrives. Swimmers who arrive at the facility early or whose ride does not pick them up promptly (within 15 minutes) are not the responsibility of the swim team and are therefore on their own and at personal risk.

7. Requests by coaches, volunteering parents, board members and university personnel must be respected and obeyed by the swimmers.
8. Parents and swimmers are expected to be supportive and refrain from negative talk about swimmers, coaches, spectators or officials. Parents are to refrain from being overly competitive and pressuring swimmers. At this level, competition is best learned gradually and under the direction of coaches along with others in the peer group.

Failure to display appropriate behavior will result in the following consequences:

- **Swimmer 1st Offense:** The swimmer will be removed from the activity and asked to sit quietly for a period of time to be determined by the coach, board member, etc.
- **Swimmer 2nd Offense:** A meeting will be held with the parent/s, coach/es and the president or vice president of the board to reach a solution. The swimmer will be suspended from all team activities until the meeting has been held.
- **Swimmer 3rd Offense:** The coach/es and president or vice president of the board will meet to determine what actions, such as probation, suspension or expulsion from the team- without refund, are necessary.
- **Parent/Family Member 1st Offense:** The offending person will be asked to leave the activity immediately.
- **Parent/Family Member 2nd Offense:** Continued inappropriate behavior may result in suspension from future activities. The coach/es and president or vice president of the board will meet to determine if actions such as swimmer probation, suspension or expulsion from the team- without refund, are necessary.

INSURANCE/LIABILITY

1. Parents are responsible for all transportation to and from practices and meets. The team is not insured for, and will not provide, group transportation. Transportation arrangements among individuals on the team are not the responsibility of the team.
2. Each swimmer must have adequate medical and accident insurance coverage. Parents must provide insurance information on the registration form and the consent form in case emergency treatment is required. Parents assume all responsibility for risks to swimmers arising from medical limitations, even if listed in the registration form, as well as from other injuries arising from coaches or Eels volunteers, competing team/s volunteers or coaches, from other swimmers and their guests or from circumstances attributed to any facility which the team uses.

DUES

1. Parents are responsible for promptly paying dues in full, at registration. Dues cover coaching fees, pool time, fixed expenses and overhead.
2. Dues do not cover fees for participating in individual events at Invitational meets or at the Championship meet. Swimmers are responsible for individual events fees. The team will pay relay event fees.
3. Dues do not cover any equipment that your child may need. A team suit and cap is required to maintain a uniform appearance. Goggles are recommended.

PRACTICES & MEETS

1. In compliance with ARC rules, the team must supply two parent chaperones, ideally a male and a female, who must remain on the pool deck during the entire swim practice, monitor children if they leave the pool to use the restroom during practice, and monitor children in the locker rooms prior to and right after practice. Chaperones must sign in at the front desk before practice.
2. Practices are open to parents and spectators. Parents (who are not the ARC chaperone) and spectators are not permitted on the pool deck. Parents and spectators must not provide direction to the swimmer during practices or meets. Parents at the East/West Gym may wait on the upper floor. Parents at the ARC may wait in the lobby. Parents are responsible for their swimmers while dressing in the locker rooms.
3. Parents are expected to arrange, in advance, schedules that compete for time with swim meets so that coaches have an accurate list of meet participants.
4. In order to swim in a meet, swimmers must be signed up by the Friday 1-week prior to the meet. Sign-up sheets are located in the 3-ring binder in the plastic Eels crate at the ARC, which is on a table on the pool deck during each practice.
5. **Meet Attendance:**
 - a. If a swimmer will be unable to attend a meet they have signed up for, they **MUST** scratch their name from meet sign-up sheet by the Tuesday prior to the meet.
 - b. In the case of a last-minute emergency, sickness etc. where a swimmer is unable to attend a meet - one of the board members or coaches **MUST** be called **PRIOR TO** the meet.
 - c. If a swimmer does not attend a meet they signed up for, has not scratched, and does not call- the swimmer will not be permitted to swim in the next meet.
 - d. A second "no-call", "no-show" offense disqualifies the swimmer from the Championship meet.
6. Swimmers must compete in ½ of the scheduled meets in order to compete at the Championship meet. A tri-meet (3 teams) counts as 2 meets and a quad meet (4 teams) counts as 3.
7. New swimmers who participate in at least 3 swim meets are eligible for a team award at the end of the year banquet.
8. For the last 2 weeks of the season, practices will be open to only those swimmers participating in the Championship meet. Those practice times will be announced near the end of the season.

COACHING STAFF

1. Parents wishing to speak with a coach must schedule a meeting. Meeting request forms are in the 3-ring binder in the Eels crate at the ARC. Parents should indicate what they wish to discuss so the coach can be properly prepared for the meeting.
2. Parents are not to approach any member of the coaching staff during practices or meets unless carrying out a specific duty related to the event.
3. Coaches are paid staff members who are responsible for providing direction and advice to the swimmers. Parents at practices or meets are not to interfere with the coaching.
4. Parents must not direct remarks toward any coach or team official. Only the meet director, coaches or president/vice president is permitted to negotiate with other teams or officials. Parents with concerns are to speak with a board member directly.
5. Parents and swimmers are to address all coaches, spectators and volunteers assisting with practices/meets with respect at all times. Un-sportsmanlike conduct at any level will not be tolerated.