

Parent Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy

U.S. Figure Skating and the Lakeland Figure Skating Club (“the Club”) are committed to providing a safe, supportive, and positive environment for all members, free from misconduct and abuse.

As a parent or guardian of a Club member, I agree to uphold the following standards:

Parent Code of Conduct

1. I will support all skaters, coaches, officials, and volunteers in a positive and respectful manner at all practices, competitions, and test sessions.
2. I will place the emotional well-being of all skaters ahead of winning or competitive success.
3. I will encourage my child to demonstrate respect, courtesy, and good sportsmanship at all times.
4. I will inform my child’s coach of any physical, emotional, or developmental condition that may affect the safety or well-being of my child or others.
5. I will emphasize effort, improvement, and personal achievement over winning.
6. I will not engage in or display negative behavior, including ridiculing, bullying, blaming, or yelling at any skater, coach, official, or volunteer.
7. I will support my child’s enjoyment of skating and help foster a positive and encouraging experience.
8. I will model respectful behavior toward all participants, including skaters, coaches, officials, volunteers, and rink staff. I will report any concerns of misconduct to the Club’s SafeSport representative.
9. I will recognize and respect both successes and challenges, encouraging my child to learn from every experience.
10. I will promote peaceful conflict resolution and discourage hostility or violence.
11. I will serve as a positive role model for all participants.
12. I will support a safe and healthy environment free from drug and alcohol abuse and report concerns to the appropriate Club representative.
13. I will respect the authority and expertise of my child’s coach and will not provide instruction from the sidelines.
14. I will respect the decisions of officials and judges and encourage my child to do the same.

15. I will value and appreciate the contributions of volunteers and support Club activities when possible.
 16. I will follow all rules and policies established by the Club and U.S. Figure Skating, and will encourage my child to do the same.
 17. I will understand, support, and comply with all SafeSport policies and the SafeSport Code of Conduct.
 18. I will treat all Club members and families with respect and inclusion.
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Reporting Procedures

The Club takes all concerns seriously and encourages prompt reporting of any suspected misconduct, abuse, policy violations, or safety concerns.

Who to Contact

- The Club's designated SafeSport Representative
- A member of Club leadership (e.g., Board Member or Club President)
- U.S. Center for SafeSport (for concerns involving abuse or misconduct under SafeSport jurisdiction)

How to Report

- In person (private conversation)
- By email (to the SafeSport Representative or Club leadership)
- Through any reporting method designated by the Club

Important Notes

- Reports involving potential abuse (including sexual misconduct, physical abuse, or other prohibited conduct) may be required to be reported directly to the U.S. Center for SafeSport and/or law enforcement.
 - Retaliation against any individual who makes a good-faith report is strictly prohibited.
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Parent Conduct: Sideline, Locker Room, and Communication Policies

Sideline / Rink Area Conduct

- Parents/guardians must remain in designated viewing areas during practices, lessons, and competitions unless otherwise authorized.

- Disruptive behavior, including coaching from the sidelines, yelling instructions, or confronting officials, coaches, or skaters, is not permitted.
- Parents must follow all rink and Club rules regarding access and behavior.

Locker Room and Changing Areas

- Parents/guardians are not permitted in locker rooms or changing areas except when necessary for the supervision of their own minor child and in accordance with SafeSport guidelines.
- Whenever possible, interactions should occur in observable and interruptible settings.
- The use of cell phones, cameras, or recording devices in locker rooms or changing areas is strictly prohibited.

Communication Guidelines

- Parents should communicate with coaches in a respectful and appropriate manner, using established Club communication channels.
- Electronic communication (text, email, social media) should be professional and include the parent/guardian when involving a minor athlete, consistent with SafeSport policies.
- Parents should not engage in direct or private electronic communication with other minor athletes who are not their own child.

SafeSport-Aligned Disciplinary Policy

The Club is committed to enforcing this Code of Conduct in a manner that prioritizes athlete safety and holds adults accountable for their behavior.

General Principles

- Disciplinary action will be directed toward the parent/guardian responsible for the violation.
- The Club will take reasonable steps to avoid penalizing the athlete for a parent's misconduct whenever possible.
- All actions will be handled with discretion, fairness, and in alignment with SafeSport reporting requirements.

Disciplinary Policy and Consequences

Failure to comply with this Code of Conduct may result in disciplinary action to protect the integrity of the Club and the safety of its members.

First Offense

Two Board Members will verbally address the concern with the parent/guardian privately, including a discussion of the violation and expectations for future behavior. The parent/guardian will receive a documented verbal warning.

Second Offense

- The parent/guardian will receive a formal written notice clearly outlining the violation, the consequence being imposed and next steps if another violation were to occur. The written notice will be kept on file.
- The parent/guardian will be suspended from Club activities for a minimum of one (1) week.

Repeated or Serious Offenses

- Continued violations or serious misconduct will result in suspension or termination of Club membership for up to one (1) year.
- Additional actions may include removal from Club events or facilities.
- In cases involving misconduct or safety concerns, the matter may be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport or other appropriate authorities when applicable.

The Club reserves the right to determine the severity of violations and apply disciplinary actions accordingly.
