

# **DARE Aquatics Bylaws**

These By-Laws have been agreed upon for the governance of the DARE Aquatics (DARE), until such time as they are altered in accordance with the counsel of DARE Aquatics management team.

## **Article 1- Affiliation**

1.1 DARE Aquatics is a member agency to USA Swimming and the local swim committee Southern California Swimming (LSC SCS) and shall have the same objectives and follow the USA Swimming and LSC SCS Regulations and Policies except where otherwise stated in the DARE Bylaws.

## **Article 2 - Defining and Interpreting the Bylaws**

### **2.1 Definitions**

All definitions found in the USA Swimming and LSC SCS Bylaws, Article 1, are applicable to the DARE Bylaws. In addition the following words have these meanings:

2.1.1 Swimming member is a swimmer who has:

- a. Met the minimum technical swimming ability standard as required by the Head Coach and their assistants;
- b. Not been suspended; and
- c. Is registered under the DARE name with USA Swimming during the current year.

2.1.2 Bylaws mean the Bylaws of the DARE as amended.

2.1.3 Club shall mean the DARE Aquatics.

2.1.4 Member means a registered swimmer over the age of 18, parent/guardian of a registered swimmer, or an approved Associate member.

2.1.5 Member in good standing:

- a. An individual who has completed and remitted all documents and certifications as required by the USA Swimming and DARE.
- b. An individual who has complied with the Bylaws, rules, regulations, policies and procedures of the USA Swimming and the DARE including the DARE Codes of Conduct;
- c. An individual who, if applicable, has paid all required membership dues;

d. An individual who is not subject to a disciplinary investigation or action by the USA Swimming or the DARE, or if subject to disciplinary action previously, has fulfilled all terms and conditions of such disciplinary action to the satisfaction of the DARE Aquatics management team and/or the USA Swimming;

e. An individual who has not ceased to be a Member, and

f. An individual who has not been suspended or expelled from membership under Article 3.4, or had other membership restrictions or sanctions imposed upon them.

2.1.6 Registered swimmer shall mean a swimmer who has submitted the appropriate USA Swimming and club registration forms and has paid the applicable associated fees (unless exempted fees by the DARE).

2.1.7 Staff means those people who are paid employees of the DARE (i.e. Head Coach, Office Administrator, Assistant Coaches etc.).

## **Article 3 - Membership**

### **3.1 Admission of Members.**

3.1.1 No individual will be admitted as a Member unless:

a. The candidate has made an application for membership in a manner prescribed by the DARE;

b. In the case of a swimmer, the candidate has met certain criteria with regard to swimming standards that may be set by the coach and approved by the DARE from time to time;

c. If the candidate was at any time previously a member, and at the time of ceasing to be a member, was in good standing; and

d. Every swimmer MUST be registered under USA Swimming. Seasonal membership is accepted as long as it covers the period of the swimmer's participation with the team. Starting September 2018, USA Swimming will also have another registration option in "Flex Swim Membership". For details, please visit:

<https://www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/news/usa-swimming-to-include-flex-swim-membership-option-in-september-2018/>

3.2 Every member shall comply with these Bylaws and the various Policies and Codes of Conduct associated with the DARE.

### **3.3 Membership Fees**

3.3.1 Membership year is as defined by the DARE in the Fees and Dues Policy documentation.

3.3.2 Membership fees, monthly fees and the payment schedule for the new season, will be developed by the DARE at the end of the ongoing swim season, based on the financial and membership information available at the time. The resulting fee schedule will be used as the basis for the new swim season. Changes to the fee schedule remain at the discretion of the DARE.

3.3.3 Payment Date for Fees. The annual DARE Aquatics Family registration membership fees must be paid on or before September 1st of every year.

3.3.4 Monthly membership fee payment is required to maintain good standing with the team and active membership even in situations in which swimmer chose not to attend practices for any extended period of time. Missed monthly payment may result in termination of membership.

### **3.4 Suspension of Membership**

#### **3.4.1 Decision to Suspend**

The DARE may suspend a member / swimmer for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. If the Member/Swimmer has failed to abide by the Bylaws;
- b. If the Member/Swimmer has breached any of the DARE Policies, Regulations or Codes of Conduct;
- c. If the Member has done or failed to do anything judged to be harmful to the DARE or its individual members.

#### **3.4.2 Notice to the Member**

- a. The affected member/swimmer will receive written notice of the team's intention to deliberate on a possible suspension.
- b. The notice will be sent by email to the last known email address of the Member or the notice may also be delivered by a staff member of the DARE.
- c. The notice will state the reasons why suspension is being considered.

### **3.5 Appeals**

3.5.1 All appeals will be governed by the DARE Discipline, Complaints and Appeals Policy.

## **Article 4 - Team Identity, Branding, and Attire**

4.1 It is of the best interest of our swimmers and the team as a whole to have a strong, healthy and representable identity. DARE Aquatics is committed to promote our swimmers, extended families, and our community by creating an identifiable brand unique to our team, representative to our community, and to be proud of by everyone associated with us. A healthy identity will boost our swimmers' confidence not only in swimming competitions but also in other areas of their life.

4.2 All team members will establish our healthy, identifiable image with our team gears. We will start off with having all swimmers outfitted with our team swim caps and team suit at every practice and swim meet. Over time (in approximately a year), we target to refresh all our swimmers' swimming gears to fully align with our team standard, unity, and image.

4.3 DARE Aquatics is (will be) sponsored by a professional aquatics apparel and equipment company (*sponsor*). Via the sponsorship, we will gain additional resources (such as team discounts, free tech suits at high-level meets, etc.) to outfit our swimmers and coaches. In return, our team is (will be) agree to and abide to the following:

- a. Select *sponsor's* products as designated team outfitting and equipment items for use by our aquatic programs;
- b. Use only *sponsor's* products when on deck at meets, traveling with domestic or international teams or at any news conferences.
- c. Promote *sponsor* as the primary swimwear, swim equipment, and team apparel sponsor of TEAM on promotional material

## **Article 5 - Amending the Bylaws**

5.1 These Bylaws may be cancelled, altered or added to by the DARE management team.

## **Article 6 - Policies and Procedures**

6.1 Policies and Procedures are defined as general organizational guidelines for the benefit of the DARE Aquatics and its members.

6.2 All members of the DARE will be required to abide by any Club Policies.

6.3 All Policies and Procedures will be reviewed annually by the DARE management team.