



## **Statement on Athlete Safety**

### **Certification**

It is each Club's responsibility to ensure that all participants in their synchro program(s) or at hosted events are in a safe environment. This could include instructional periods, competitions, special events or training components. It is critical that staff, coaches, instructors, specialty trainers, etc. are properly certified in the area in which they are working. In addition, facility staff are expected to effectively supervise while you are using the pool. In the event that facilities do not provide their own lifeguard staff and clubs provide lifeguards via their coaches, it is imperative that club coaches meet provincial lifeguarding standards (NLS), are functioning in an appropriate guarding capacity, and meet patron/lifeguard ratio regulations.

### **Training & Routine Safety**

As a sport, we encourage creativity and challenges that create new and interesting components, however, it is imperative that athlete safety is at the forefront of any routine design (both in the water and on deck). Within their competition reports, Chief Judges and Chief Referees will identify any routine components that appear to put an athlete(s) in a position of high risk. These reports are submitted to the provincial Official Representative. The President of a club with a routine identified as containing a high-risk element will be notified of the concern. With athlete safety as the priority, a request will be made for the routine to be adjusted in order to lessen the risk and create a safer environment for our athletes.

### **Code of Ethics**

Please refer to the Synchro Swim Ontario Code of Ethics for standards where athlete, coach and officials ethics are concerned. This document is distributed annually to your club and is also available on the website.