



# PVS Safe Sport Newsletter

December 4, 2018

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**Safe Sport is “Challenging” You!** We’ve seen the viral trends: the Ice Bucket Challenge, the Mannequin Challenge, the Harlem Shake, planking, etc. What’s next? Have your club create a unique and entertaining photo or video promoting the virtues of Safe Sport. Submit to [PVSSafeSport@gmail.com](mailto:PVSSafeSport@gmail.com) by Dec. 31. Winners will receive a prize!

**Guidance for Swim Parents.** Unsure how things work? Confused about etiquette? Sometimes this confusion results in hostility between spectators. Safe Sport would like to compile some guidance for spectators. And we know you have opinions! Now is the time for you to say everything you’ve always wanted to say to your fellow spectators. Hopefully we can make the stands a more pleasant environment. Send thoughts to [PVSSafeSport@gmail.com](mailto:PVSSafeSport@gmail.com).

## Safe Sport Recognition

Congratulations to **The Fish** for becoming the first Safe Sport Recognized Club in PVS (and one of the first recognized clubs in the United States)! This recognition by USA Swimming reflects the club’s implementation of several codes of conduct, policies, and educational programs directed to promoting a safe environment for athletes. **PVS Safe Sport’s goal is for every team to become recognized.** We will highlight each club when they reach this milestone. PVS Safe Sport can help your club navigate the process. To begin, click [here](#).



## Stand Up to Bullying Day



On Friday, November 16, PVS Safe Sport launched a contest to see who could create a Superhero for Safe Sport. We are pleased to share the winning submission from NCAP (Burke)’s **Mark Duff (13)**. Mark’s submission reflects some serious artistic talent, creativity, and highlights some of the fundamental principles of Safe Sport, including “kindness, compassion, and respect.” And for any chemists, physicists, or nuclear engineers out there (and anyone alive in the 80s), his use of the term “rad” in context is pretty spectacular. Thanks for being a Superhero for Safe Sport, Mark!



**Hero’s Name:** Val-Tox

**Super Powers:** Super Strength, Laser Beam Eyes

**Nickname:** Val, (short for Valerius, which means “to be strong” in latin).

**Backstory:** After years of working in a nuclear powerplant, Val accidentally fell in a vat of nuclear waste of unknown substance and now has toxic powers! Now Val-Tox uses his super rad power to convince bullies to stop bullying.

**Mission:** “Keeping kids safe and sound where bullies have no ground.”



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## We Are Marshals!

You see people on deck wearing yellow vests. Sometimes they block you from going where you want to go. What's their deal? Think of it this way: they are the protectors of the athletes. They are keeping people off deck that shouldn't be there (including parents). They prevent crowding and dangerous situations. They keep the deck safe and keep kids from getting hurt. And they are volunteers! So be nice!



## Questions and Concerns

We would love to hear from you! If you have any questions or concerns about Safe Sport issues, or would like some additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at [PVSSafeSport@gmail.com](mailto:PVSSafeSport@gmail.com). We are also open to constructive feedback. If you have suggestions on information you'd like to see, or ways Safe Sport can serve the community better, please tell us!

## Volunteers Committed to Safe Sport

We want every club in PVS to have **at least one Club Safe Sport Coordinator**. These Coordinators can help share information about Safe Sport, talk to team members about Safe Sport issues, help implement policies and procedures, and serve as a liaison between the club and the PVS Safe Sport Committee. We are very fortunate to have a number of volunteers already (see below). If you have volunteered to serve as a Club Safe Sport Coordinator but don't see your name below, or you would like to get involved, please email us at [PVSSafeSport@gmail.com](mailto:PVSSafeSport@gmail.com). If your club does not have a Club Safe Sport Coordinator, please talk to your club coaches and administrators about filling this vacancy.

**AAC** – John Bechtoldt

**All-Star Aquatics** – Kelly Pipari

**DC Wave** – Rob Green, Michylle Padilla, Jim Crampton

**Dragon Swim Club** – Kevin Pan

**Fairfax Foxes** – Liz Martin, Rebekah Corbin

**Fort Belvoir Swim Team** – Bill Sprague

**Life Time Mid Atlantic** – Priya Beasley

**Machine** – Cindy Cruzado, Chris Wertzler

**MSSC** – Lynne Gerlach

**Mason Makos** – Mike Cook

**NCAP** – Spencer Ugast, Tori McCollough, Leslie Tomlinson, Eliza Jacobs, Steve Van Beek, Tracy Evans, Piper Buswell, Emily Jordan, Stephanie Love, Reagan Fillinger

**Patuxent Aquatic Club** – Cherlynn Venit

**Potomac Marlins** – Bill Marlin

**Riptide Swim Team** – Shandra Richardson

**RMSC** – Melanie Sasse, Dave Greene, Deborah Meisel

**Reston Water Wolves** – Adam Orton

**Sea Devils Swimming** – Ian Handerhan

**Second Sport Swimming** – Kristy Kellogg

**SNOW** – Teresa Meike Pluskaitis

**The Fish** – Mike O'Shaughnessy, Bridget O'Shaughnessy

**Tollefson Swimming** – Anne Schulman

**We Aquatics** – David Worrell

**York Swim Club** – Greg York, Caroline DeLuca, Natalie English

**YMCA Silver Spring** – Aljahai Henley

**Useful Links:** Educational Resources: [USA Swimming Learn Portal](#); [USA Swimming Model Policies](#); [PVS Safe Sport Website](#); [Bullying Prevention](#); [Safe Sport Recognized Club Program](#); [OneLove \(Promoting Healthy Relationships\)](#); Training to Recognize and Report Abuse: [Virginia](#); [Maryland](#); [DC](#); Reporting Concerns: [email PVS Safe Sport](#); [What to Do](#); [Incident Reporting Form](#); Recent Relevant Media and Articles: [NC Safe Sport Video](#); [Arrest at Ohio Swim Meet](#); [Spotting Predators](#); [RFTW - Safe Sport Developments](#)

**Upcoming Meetings** – The PVS Safe Sport Committee will be holding a meeting within the next two weeks. If you would like to add any items to the agenda for the Committee to discuss, please send us an email at [PVSSafeSport@gmail.com](mailto:PVSSafeSport@gmail.com).