

**House Rules Gay Swim Amsterdam (GSA)**

*Adopted on 9-11-2023*

**1. General**

1.1. The house rules of GSA were adopted at the General Members' Meeting (ALV) on November 9, 2023, and supplement the association’s articles of association, which were adopted on January 23, 1997. With the adoption of these house rules, all previously adopted house rules are repealed.

1.2. GSA is a member of the Royal Dutch Swimming Federation (KNZB). As such, the members and friends of GSA, as well as all those holding a position within GSA, accept the obligation to comply with the statutes and regulations of the KNZB, in accordance with Article 5, Section 4 of the GSA statutes, including but not limited to the Code of Conduct referred to in Article 5 of these rules.

**2. Membership**

2.1. Candidate members can swim for free up to three times to decide whether or not to join as a member. Registration as a candidate member is done in writing (via email to an address published on the GSA website) or verbally with the board or with one or more officers appointed by the board of GSA.

2.2. Membership registration is done by completing and submitting an online registration form. The board decides on membership approval, and membership begins after the annual contribution has been paid to GSA.

2.3. Members have the right to participate in the training sessions organized by GSA at any time and to take part in all activities organized by GSA, including the general members' meetings, where they have voting rights.

2.4. Members can submit proposals, complaints, and requests to the board.

2.5. Friends of GSA have the option to train 10 times per swimming season at a reduced rate. Registration as a friend is done by completing and submitting an online registration form. The board decides on the approval of friends, and the status of being a friend begins after the annual contribution has been paid to GSA.

2.6. Members and friends have the obligation to notify the secretary of address changes in writing or by email.

2.7. Members and friends accept, upon admission, the obligations outlined in the statutes and regulations of GSA, as well as the guidelines provided by the board or committees designated by the board, particularly the obligation to pay the annual membership or friends' contribution to GSA on time and to comply with the Code of Conduct referred to in Article 5 of these rules. If a member does not comply with the obligations associated with membership and persists in doing so after being addressed by the board, the board may suspend or expel the member in accordance with the provisions of the statutes of GSA.

2.8. The contribution rates for members and friends of GSA are determined annually by the general members' meeting, with a distinction made between regular rates and discounted rates.

2.9. Membership must be canceled in writing before August 1st with the secretary or treasurer of GSA. Refunds of contributions are, in principle, not possible, even if membership is terminated during the year. Only in special cases may the board decide to issue a refund.



**3. Training Sessions**

3.1. Participants in the training sessions must adhere to the pool's visitor rules, GSA's own swimming rules, and the instructions of the trainers.

3.2. The training sessions are only open to candidate members, members, friends of GSA, and guest swimmers from other (LGBTQI+) swimming associations who have registered with the board or with an official approval by the board. Guest swimmers may train for free up to three times.

3.3. GSA is not liable for accidents that occur during training sessions and is also not liable for theft and/or damage to members' property. Participants in training sessions are therefore advised not to leave (valuable) items in the changing rooms but to bring them to the pool.

**4. Competitions and tournaments**

4.1. Participation in competitions or tournaments is only open to members and friends with a competition license and takes place after registration with the organizing association or with GSA. If registration is not done through GSA, the participant is required to inform the secretary of GSA. Individual participation in a licensed tournament abroad must be reported to the secretary two weeks in advance, including the program.

4.2. Costs incurred by the association for participation in a competition will be charged to the member participating in the competition.

4.3. If a member fails to appear at a competition they have registered for or does not cancel on time, the fine imposed by the KNZB on the association will be passed on to the respective member.

**5. Code of conduct**

5.1. Unwanted behavior such as bullying, discrimination, threats, insults, abuse, and sexual harassment is not tolerated within GSA. Therefore, GSA has a code of conduct for its (candidate) members, trainers, volunteers, and other officials, in accordance with the regulations of the KNZB. This code of conduct is laid down in Regulation Q, the Professional Code of the KNZB.

5.2. The confidential contact person is the first point of contact for anyone who has a question about or is dealing with inappropriate behavior. They act as the first point of reception for handling a complaint or question, provide a listening ear, offer advice, and refer to appropriate help if necessary. In addition, the confidential contact person advises and encourages GSA or KNZB to take preventive measures.

5.3. GSA has two confidential contact persons who can provide this support, and they are appointed by the board.

5.4. If a (candidate) member, friend, trainer, volunteer, or other official within GSA encounters inappropriate behavior, they can contact the board, the confidential contact person, and/or the Safe Sport Center of NOC\*NSF.