



Press Release
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The U.S. Swim School Association Applauds Georgia's Model Aquatic Safety Plan

Georgia Health Department Develops New Lifesaving Guidelines with Expert Support from USSSA

The U.S. Swim School Association is proud to announce that the Georgia Department of Health issued a "Model Aquatic Safety Plan," a lifesaving guide developed with collaboration and significant input from USSSA.

The plan was created under Izzy's Law, legislation named in honor of a 4-year-old child who tragically drowned in 2022 during a swim lesson. The law, which went into effect on Jan. 1, called on the Georgia Health Department to unveil new aquatic safety guidelines for swim instructors in the state. The recommendations include suggested instructor-to-student ratios, CPR certification, secondary supervision during lessons, and more.

Private swim instructors in Georgia have until April 1, 2024, to put a safety plan in place or face a misdemeanor charge.

"USSSA applauds Georgia for taking this important step to support better, safer swim school businesses in the state," said Lisa Zarda, executive director of USSSA. "Learning to swim is one of the important layers of protection to prevent drowning, which is the leading cause of death for children ages one to four. We support swim lessons from trained instructors who prioritize both safety and fun in educating and empowering their students."

For 35 years, USSSA has grown to become the largest swim school association in the country, representing swim schools and other learn to swim programs. USSSA members hold themselves to national standards established by industry leaders.

To find a member facility near you, visit www.USSwimSchool.org.

ABOUT THE USSSA

The United States Swim School Association believes in the importance of life-long water safety, equipping individuals of all ages with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in aquatic environments. Our members' trained instructors instill a sense of confidence and appreciation for the water – utilizing tactics that prioritize both safety and fun.