

MAM Charitable Solicitations Policy

The MAM Board of Directors wishes both to foster an inclusive, supportive community, and to avoid circumstances that instead risk exclusion or division. While recognizing our team's historic generosity, we also respect its diversity. The Board of Directors has approved the following charitable solicitation policy in order to provide Manatees opportunities for raising funds through other team members without distracting us from our core swimming mission, coercing MAM members to give, or creating an awkward atmosphere among teammates.

1. The Board of Directors must approve in writing all charitable solicitations made to the team. Members who would like to use MAM communications channels to promote charitable events or causes should bring their requests to the Board for consideration. Please bear in mind that the Board does not meet every month, and that you may need to make your request well in advance of the time you wish the team to receive your announcement. The Board will communicate its approval for any charitable announcement through the President, who will inform the Head Coach so that the Head Coach can work with Assistant Coaches to spread the message as appropriate.
2. Without express Board approval, the Head Coach and Assistant Coaches will not collect money or goods on any organization's or member's behalf. Such approval will be unusual, in part because the team has very little secure storage space for valuable items.
3. Approval of any charitable solicitation is at the Board's sole discretion. In keeping with our organizational mission, the Board prefers swimming-related charities. Most critically, however, the Board will not approve use of MAM resources for charitable campaigns that we believe will be divisive or exclusionary for our members. For example, we will not lend MAM resources to organizations that we know to discriminate in membership or services on the basis of religion, race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, or any other invidious basis; similarly, we will not lend MAM resources to political causes or campaigns. If many of our members might be raising funds for the same organization or event, such as for the Women's Cancer Resource Center Swim-a-Mile, MAM will not lend its resources to individual swimmers; instead, upon request and Board approval, we will announce the event and encourage MAM members either to participate in it or to sponsor a friend or teammate who is.
4. To avoid overwhelming members with solicitations that may divert time and attention from swimming, the Board will limit its approvals.