



The Western Mass Aquadogs Team Travel Policy

Purpose: Athletes are most vulnerable to misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a high risk of athlete-to-athlete misconduct. During travel, athletes are often away from their families and support networks, and the setting – new changing areas, locker rooms, workout facilities, automobiles and hotel rooms – is less structured and less familiar.

Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to a swim meet or other team activity that is planned and supervised by The Western Mass Aquadogs

Section 1 - USA Swimming Required Policies

Aquadog Swim Club adheres to the [USA Swimming Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policies](#).

Section 2 – Aquadog Policies

a. During team travel, athletes and coaches shall not modify or deviate from the team organized travel itinerary and arrangements (i.e. flight reservations, hotel, meals) without prior authorization from the Head Coach. Athletes who are in violation of this policy will receive disciplinary action which may include immediate withdrawal from the travel competition and disqualification from future team travel opportunities.

b. A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.

c. A signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete must be signed.

This is generally a required agreement signed during travel registration.

d. Chaperones, Coaches and/or Team Managers shall carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.

e. Curfews shall be established by the team staff each day of the trip.

f. Cell phone policies shall be established by team staff as appropriate. These policies may include cell phone restrictions or collection during the overnight hours.



- g. Team members and staff traveling with the team will attend all team functions including meetings, practices, meals, meet sessions, etc. unless otherwise excused or instructed by the head coach or his/her designee.
- h. The directions & decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
- i. Swimmers are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Swimmers are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, a restaurant, or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- j. When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons. 12 & Under athletes will be accompanied by a chaperone.
- k. The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate club or LSC leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.



Section 3 - Aquadog Code of Conduct

All participants in Team Travel are expected to adhere to the Aquadog Code of Conduct as defined in the [Aquadog Code of Conduct Policy](#).

Failure to comply with the policies as set forth in this document and any referenced documents may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

- i. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
- ii. Disqualification from one or more events, or all events of competition;
- iii. Disqualification from future team travel meets;
- iv. Financial penalties;
- v. Dismissal from the team; and/or
- vi. Proceedings for a LSC or USA Swimming National Board of Review.