

NPAC Team Travel Policy

Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.

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 club or LSC.

Section 1 - USA Swimming Required Policies Club and LSC travel policies must include these policies. These items are Code of Conduct stipulations in the USA Swimming Rulebook.

a. Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club. (305.5.D)

b. Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-administered criminal background check. (305.5.B)

c. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of that particular athlete). (305.5.A)

d. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his/her parents' (or legal guardian's) written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach. (305.5C)

Section 2 -NPAC Policies

a. During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and open and observable environments should be maintained.

b. Athletes should not ride in a coach's personal vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior parental permission is obtained.

c. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age.

d. To ensure the propriety of the athletes and to protect the staff, there will be no male athletes in female athlete's rooms and no female athletes in male athlete's rooms (unless the other athlete is a sibling or spouse of that particular athlete).

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

f. Curfews shall be established by the team or LSC staff each day of the trip.

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.

k. The directions & decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.

l. 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.

m. When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons.

n. 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 athlete.

Behavior

a. Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in hotel;

b. Be prompt and on time;

c. Respect travel vehicles;

f. Establish travel dress code;

g. Use appropriate behavior in public facilities;

h. Adhere to two different curfews established by coaches – in own rooms and lights out;

i. Must stay in assigned hotel room;

j. Needs and wellbeing of the team come first.

Financial

a. No room service

b. Swimmers responsible for all incidental charges;

c. Swimmers responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel;

d. Must participate in contracted group meals;

e. Communicate travel reimbursement information and policies.

f. Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.

g. The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.

h. The possession, use, or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.

e. No “deck changes” are permitted. Athletes are expected to use available change facilities.

Team members are reminded that when competing in meets, traveling on trips, and attending other meet-related functions, they are representing both themselves and NPAC. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete’s expense;

Disqualification from one or more events, or all events of competition;

Disqualification from future team travel meets;

Dismissal from the team;

Proceedings for a LSC or USA Swimming National Board of Review.



NPAC Parent Consent Form – Travel

As per USA Swimming’s Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP): **“A legal guardian must consent in writing, in advance, for every instance in which their minor athlete travels alone with an Applicable Adult.”**

This form serves as written consent from a NPAC minor athlete’s legal guardian for their swimmer to travel alone with an Unrelated Applicable Adult on official team travel, and intended to satisfy the requirements in the situation below, taken from the MAAPP FAQs section regarding team travel:

Q: Can Applicable Adults ride alone in a vehicle with a minor athlete?

A: Applicable Adults must not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances, and must always have at least two minor athletes or another adult in the vehicle, unless agreed to in writing by the minor athlete’s legal guardian.

I, _____, legal guardian of _____,
a minor athlete, give express written permission and grant an exception to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy for _____, an unrelated Applicable Adult, to provide local vehicle transportation to _____ (minor athlete) to _____ (destination) on _____ (date(s)) at _____ (approximate time), and further acknowledge that this written permission is valid only for the transportation on the specified date and to the specified location.

Legal Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____