



MISSOURI STATE AQUATICS TEAM TRAVEL POLICIES



Section 1 - USA Swimming Required 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 – MSA Team Policies

- a) During team travel, when doing room checks will be completed each night. Following room checks athletes are expected to stay in their rooms unless they obtain permission from a coach or chaperone.
- b) Athletes will not ride in a coach's vehicle without another athlete present, unless prior parental permission is obtained.
- c) During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall always be of the same gender; and should be a similar age when possible.
- d) When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, at the competition the coach and athlete should attempt to establish a "buddy" club to associate with during the competition and when away from the venue.

e) 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 with the door closed (unless the other athlete is a sibling or spouse of that particular athlete).

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.

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 two persons. 12 & Under athletes will be accompanied by a chaperone.

k) Cost of travel is split amongst all members registered for each team travel meet for travel expenses (rental cars, etc...) and hotel rooms, divided up equally amongst all occupying each room (4 persons of same gender to room when possible to reduce cost).

Section 3 - Expectations

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

b. 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.

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

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

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

Section 4 - Failure to Meet Expectations

a. Failure to comply with this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:

1. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense 2. Disqualification from one or more events, or all events of competition 3. Disqualification from future team travel meets 4. Financial penalties 5. Dismissal from the team

By signing below I understand that the athlete will be held accountable for all of the items involved in this contract. Failure to comply with the items outlined in this contract will result in the disciplinary actions provided above. I also release MSA from any liability during the course of the trip.

_____ Athlete's Signature

_____ Parent's Signature