

Team Travel Policy for Oyster River Otters Swim Team

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.

While Otters does not have team travel as a practice, and it is customary for athletes to travel with their own families, we recognize we do have athletes and coaches traveling to away meets that may require overnight stays and are occasionally staying in the same hotel. When traveling away for swim meets, we expect athletes and coaches so uphold our code of conduct at all times.

Section 1 - USA Swimming Required Policies

The items below 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 - Additional Otters Policies

- a. Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior parental permission is obtained.
- b. 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).
- c. A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- d. Team officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
- e. Team members and staff traveling for team business 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.
- f. The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of code of conduct

violations to the appropriate club leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

Code of Conduct / Honor Code

All team members, team staff, and parents of minors are apprised in writing of the team's Code of Conduct and the attached USA Swimming Code of Conduct. A signature on this document constitutes unconditional agreement to comply with the stipulations of both documents.

Recommended:

- 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. No "deck changes" are permitted. Athletes are expected to use available change facilities.
- f. 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 Oyster River Otters. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

Additionally:

- a. Failure to comply with the Honor Code as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action up to including dismissal from the team.
- b. Swimmers are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities and events.
- c. Swimmers are to refrain from use of inappropriate language.

