

Piedmont Swim 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 club or LSC.

- Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and the adults traveling with the club. (305.5.D)
- Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-administered criminal background check. (305.5.B)
- 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)
- When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his/her parents' (or legal guardians') written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach. (305.5C)
- Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, or at least two Minor Athletes present, unless prior parental/guardian permission is obtained.
- During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age. Where athletes are age 13 & over, chaperones and/or team managers would ideally stay in nearby rooms. When athletes are age 12 & under, chaperones and/or team managers may stay with athletes. Where chaperones/team managers are staying in a room with athletes, they must be the same gender as the athletes and written consent must be given by the athlete's parents or legal guardian (unless an exception exists, see below or exceptions in the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy section).
- 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.
- 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



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(unless the other athlete is a sibling or spouse of that particular athlete, or a scheduled team activity such as meal preparation is in progress).

- A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- A copy of the PST Athlete Honor Code must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- Team or LSC officials should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.
- Team or LSC officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
- Curfews shall be established by the team or LSC staff each day of the trip.
- 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.
- The directions and decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
- 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.
- 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.

Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy

The USA-Swimming [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy](#) (MAAPP) applies to all In-Program Travel and Lodging and Residential Environments.

I. Transportation

- A. During In-Program Travel, observable and interruptible environments must be maintained.
- B. An Adult Participant must not transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one during In-Program Travel and must always transport at least two Minor Athletes, who are at least 8 years of age, or another Adult Participant except:
 1. In emergency circumstances;
 2. When a Dual Relationship exists;
 3. When the Close-In-Age Exception applies; and/or
 4. The Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has provided, at least annually, written consent for the Adult Participant to transport a Minor Athlete one-on-one, which can be withdrawn at any time
- C. Adult Participants, including team managers and chaperones, who travel with the Organization must be USA Swimming non-athlete members of USA Swimming.
- D. Written consent from a Minor Athlete's parent/guardian is required for all transportation authorized or funded by an Organization at least annually
- E. Minor Athlete(s) or their parent/guardian can withdraw consent at any time.



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- F. Adult Participants who are parents/legal guardians of Minor Athletes must pick up their Minor Athlete first and drop off their Minor Athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

Prior to parent/guardians providing consent, said parent/guardian are advised to complete the US Center for SafeSport education and training on child abuse prevention.

II. Lodging and Residential Environment

- A. An Adult Participant must not share a lodging arrangement including, but not limited to hotel stays, rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and Billeting, with an Athlete.
- B. During In-Program Travel, all In-Program Contact in lodging arrangement including, but not limited to hotel stays, rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible.
- C. During In-Program Travel, when doing room checks, two-deep leadership (two Adult Participants should be present) and observable and interruptible environments must be maintained.
- D. The following exceptions apply to II(A), (B) and (C):
- E. When a Dual Relationship exists, the Adult Participant is not a coach, and the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; and/or
- F. When the Close-In-Age Exception applies and the Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian has provided advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement.
- G. Minor Athletes should be paired to share a lodging arrangement including, but not limited to hotel stays, rentals (i.e. Airbnb, VRBO, HomeToGo, etc.), and long-term residential environments, including lodging at training sites and Billeting, with other Minor Athletes of the same competition category and of similar age.
- H. Adult Participants, including team managers and chaperones, who lodge with USA Swimming athletes must be USA Swimming non-athlete members of USA-Swimming.

III. Written Consent

- A. A Minor Athlete's parent/legal guardian must provide written consent, at least annually, for all In-Program Travel and lodging during In-Program Travel, which can be withdrawn at any time.

IV. Meetings

- A. Meetings during In-Program Travel must be conducted consistent with the One-on-One Interactions section of the MAAPP (e.g., any such meeting must be observable and interruptible).
- B. Meetings must not be conducted in an Adult Participant or athlete's hotel room or other overnight lodging location during In-Program Travel.

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Violations and Consequences

Violations do not solely impact the offending athletes and coach. Misbehavior and policy violations, especially during team travel, have an impact on the team and fellow athletes, both directly and indirectly.

When Travel Policy Violations occur during travel, a small group comprised of a coach, chaperone (if available) and fellow athlete(s) will be convened with the offending team member to do the following:

- Review the Travel Policy and Code of Conduct
- Review the offense
- Discuss the impact on safety and team operations
- Determine a consequence.

Participation in the debrief by fellow athletes is voluntary and no penalty will be incurred by athletes who decline to participate. The discussion will be held in a respectful and non-shaming manner. Athletes who participate in a debrief are expected to only disclose the contents and outcome of the debrief with others on a “need to know” basis.

The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of Travel Policy or Code of Conduct violations to the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete. Code of Conduct violations will be reported to the board and any feedback from the board to the athlete and their family will be delivered promptly.



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