

Swimmers selected for the 2018 Florida Zone Team are required to abide by the Florida Zone Team Code of Conduct and Team Travel Policy. Please read this information carefully.

Team Travel Policy for Florida Swimming Zone Team

Section 1 - USA Swimming Required Policies

1. Florida Swimming Zone Team travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the team. (305.5.D)
2. Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-administered criminal background check. (305.5.B)
3. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete. (305.5.A).

Section 2 – Florida Swimming Zone Team Policies

General Policies

1. Criteria for the selection of, and eligibility for the Florida Swimming Zone Team are established in guidelines published each year by Florida Swimming LSC.
2. Upon selection for the Florida Swimming Zone Team, swimmers are responsible for
 1. Previously stated financial obligations associated with team travel,
 2. Thoroughly reading and understanding all communications with the Florida Swimming Zone Team staff and Florida Swimming, Inc. staff regarding team travel.
3. Parent(s) are responsible for getting swimmer(s) to stated departure point, at or before the time set on the team itinerary.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age. Chaperones and/or team managers ideally stay in nearby rooms.
7. 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.**
8. A copy of the Florida Swimming Zone Team Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian before team departure.
9. Team or LSC officials should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.

10. Team or LSC officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
11. Curfews shall be established by the team staff each day of the trip.
12. 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.
13. The directions and decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
14. 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.
15. When visiting public places such as restaurants, hotels, airports etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons. 12 & Under athletes will be accompanied by a chaperone or coach at all times.
16. The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate LSC leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

Safety

1. Additional guidelines may be established as needed by the coaches during the course of travel;
2. Swimmers shall respect the privacy of each other;
3. Swimmers shall wear seat belts and remain seated in vehicles; and
4. Swimmers shall abide by all instructions by vehicle operators, airline staff, and other safety personnel.

Behavior

1. At all times, swimmers shall be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in hotel;
2. Swimmers shall be prompt and on time;
3. Swimmers shall respect travel vehicles:
 1. Swimmers are expected to keep their seat and surrounding areas clean and tidy.
 2. Swimmers shall respect directions and requests of vehicle operators and safety personnel at all times.
4. Dress Code:
 1. Swimmers shall receive an itinerary with the daily dress code included for each day.
 2. Swimmers shall abide by the assigned dress code for each day.
 3. Swimmers shall NOT wear clothing/carry gear from their home clubs on deck or during team travel.

5. Swimmers are expected to use appropriate behavior in public facilities, this includes:
 1. Cleaning up their area on deck at the meet,
 2. Maintaining proper decorum in the hotel, airports, and other public places.
6. Two different curfews will be set each night of team travel:
 1. *In rooms*: swimmers will be expected to be in their rooms at an assigned time each night, and between sessions each day. While in their rooms swimmers are expected to be quiet and respectful of their teammates and other hotel patrons and hotel staff.
 2. *Lights out*: swimmers will be expected to turn their lights out, and turn off all electronic devices at a specific time each night. This includes cell phones, tablets, and televisions.
7. Swimmers shall stay in their assigned hotel room; and
8. Swimmers shall remember that the needs and wellbeing of the team come first.

Financial

1. No room service without permission;
2. Swimmers responsible for all incidental charges;
3. Swimmers responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel;
4. Swimmers shall participate in contracted group meals.

Section 3: Code of Conduct / Honor Code

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

General Guidelines:

1. 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 Florida Swimming Zone Team. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the Florida Swimming LSC.
2. Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
3. 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.
4. The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.

5. The possession, use, or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
6. No “deck changes” are permitted. Athletes are expected to use available change facilities.
7. Swimmers are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities and events.
8. Swimmers are to refrain from use of inappropriate language.
9. **Cell phones:**
 1. **Cell phone use is not permitted on deck during meet sessions, except as follows:**
 2. **Immediately before a race, swimmers who are behind the block may use their cell phones to listen to music;**
 3. **Immediately after a race, swimmers may use their cell phones to contact parents/guardians regarding the race. Cell phones shall remain in the swimmer’s bag, out of sight at all other times.**
 4. **Cell phone use is not permitted during team meetings.**
 5. **Cell phone use is not permitted after “lights out” curfew.**
10. Social Media:
 1. Swimmers are allowed to use social media while traveling, with the following restrictions:
 1. Swimmers may not post photos of other swimmers without the affirmative consent of each swimmer in the photo posted.
 2. Social media posts shall reflect the Florida Swimming Zone Team, its swimmers and coaches, in a positive light.

Penalties:

1. 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:
 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; and/or
 6. Proceedings for a LSC or USA Swimming National Board of Review.