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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

MANTA RAYS SWIM TEAM 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 team or LSC.

Section 1 - USA Swimming Required Policies

Team and LSC travel policies must include these policies. These items are Code of Conduct stipulations in the USA Swimming Rulebook.

- a. Team travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the team. (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 is traveling to a competition, two-deep leadership must be maintained at all times.

Section 2 - Recommended 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 will not ride in a coach's vehicle unless that coach is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of the athlete(s) or unless there is a medical emergency.
- c. 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).
- d. A copy of the team's Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- e. Team or LSC officials should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.
- f. Team or LSC officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.





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- g. Curfews shall be established by the team or LSC staff each day of the trip.
- h. 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.
- i. The directions & decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
- j. 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.
- k. 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.
- l. The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate team or LSC leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

Section 3 – Additional Travel Policies

Safety

- a. Whenever possible, a supervised team room will be provided for relaxation and recreation;
- b. Respect the privacy of each other;
- c. All athletes and coaches must wear seat belts and remain seated in vehicles;

Behavior

- a. Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in hotel;
- b. Be prompt and on time;
- c. Use of cell-phones by athletes after 10:00 pm is prohibited unless in an emergency;
- d. When traveling as a team, it is recommended that all swimmers wear Manta Rays Swim Team branded clothing;
- e. Use appropriate behavior in public facilities – you are representing the YMCA and the Manta Rays Swim Team;
- f. At curfew, all swimmers must stay in their assigned hotel room. Lights out will be 30 minutes after athletes are instructed to retire to their room.

Financial

- a. No room service without permission;
- b. Swimmers responsible for all incidental charges;
- c. Swimmers responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel;
- d. Must participate in contracted group meals; and

General

- a. Financial aid for team travel may be available depending on the meet. A financial aid form is available for families that may not be able to support out of state travel;





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- b. Parent(s) are responsible for getting swimmer(s) to the stated departure point on time.

Code of Conduct / Honor Code

Required:

All team members, team staff, and parents of minors are apprised in writing of this 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 and parents will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- b. Team members, parents 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 Manta Rays Swim Team. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the team, the YMCA and the Iowa LSC.

For Consideration:

- a. 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:
 - i. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
 - ii. Disqualification from one or more events, or all events of competition;
 - iii. Disqualification from future team travel meets;
 - iv. Financial penalties;
 - v. Dismissal from the team; and/or
 - vi. Proceedings for a LSC or USA Swimming National Board of Review.
- b. Swimmers are to refrain from inappropriate physical contact at team activities and events.
- c. Swimmers are to refrain from use of inappropriate language.

