

Travel Policy & Requirements

Meets applicable to the "Travel Policy" are defined as meets where the coaching staff and designated team chaperons transport and supervise the swimmers for the duration of the trip. The travel policy does not apply to meets in which the parents travel their own athletes. Parents are welcome to attend these club coordinated travel meets as spectators, however they must provide their own transportation, lodging and meals. Furthermore, parents and others who are spectators are asked to provide distance from their swimmers allowing them to remain and bond with their teammates and coaches during the trip uninterrupted.

The following requirements apply to ALL meets designated as Team Travel Meets:

1. Swimmers ages 13 & older will be able to travel with the team to meets (unchaperoned). The stipulations for team travel only apply to those on the team travel trip. Swimmers who are 11-12 years old will be determined how they will travel to certain meets that have been designated as Elite meet travel. In most cases, 11-12 year old swimmers will travel as a team but may need to room with their parents (which means parents would need to have a hotel for the duration of the meet). Swimmers who are 10 and under will always need to room with their parents, and may be able to travel with the team where applicable. Coaches of swimmers 12 and younger will supervise the swimmers during the swimming portion of the trip. Parents/guardians are responsible for all supervision when the swimmers are turned back over to the parents after the swimming or team events, or when back in the hotel.
2. All swimmers must abide by the rules for team travel. No alternate accommodations will be given.
3. When swimmers are given permission to travel home from the meet with their parents, they may do so ONLY after the final swim for our team has been completed for the entire meet. No one will be permitted to leave the meet before all swimmers have completed their races.
4. Swimmers must stay with the team (or parents for 11-12, when applicable and with parents all the time when 10 and under) at all times. No one will be given permission to miss a team meal or leave the team hotel (or the pool) for any reason other than the meet or unless there is an emergency situation or situations are coordinated and approved by the coaching staff prior to the team travel.
5. All swimmers must abide by the team rules and travel code of conduct. Swimmers in violation of any team rules or the travel code of conduct will be issued what the coaching staff deems to be the appropriate punishment. THIS MAY INCLUDE IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL FROM THE MEET AT THE EXPENSE OF THAT SWIMMER'S PARENTS/GUARDIANS. YOU ASSUME THIS RISK WHEN AGREEING TO ATTEND TEAM TRAVEL.
6. All coaches and chaperones must sign and abide by the travel chaperone guidelines and code of conduct (revised in 2010 to abide by new USA Swimming athlete protection rules and guidelines).
7. All swimmers must abide by the team uniform policy if applicable, at all times.
8. Swimmers of families whose team accounts are delinquent in any way will need to bring their account to current before attending a designated team travel event.
9. If a swimmer, parent, or guardian is unable or unwilling to abide by ANY of the requirements of or for team travel, the swimmer will not be permitted to attend the meet in any capacity.

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USA Swimming Required Travel Policies:

(These policies are required addendums to our team travel policies by USA Swimming)

- a) Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club.
- b) Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming-administered criminal background check.
- 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).
- 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.

Additional Travel 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 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.
- c) 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.
- d) When only one athlete under the age of 18 and one coach travel to a competition, the swimmer MUST be accompanied by at least one of their parents or guardians.
- 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 room.
- f) A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
- g) Team officials should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.
- h) Team officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
- i) Curfews shall be established by the team staff each day of the trip.
- j) 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.
- k) The directions & decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
- l) 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.
- m) When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theaters, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons.
- n) The Head Coach or his/her designee shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate club leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

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I _____ hereby approve my son/daughter _____ to travel with Steel City Aquatics. I certify that I have read the Travel Policy, reviewed it with my child, and agree to the contents and rules contained in the travel policy.

Signature _____

Date: _____

I acknowledge and approve the coach/chaperone to seek medical treatment if required, and authorize consent to treat should the need occur.

Signature _____

Date: _____

I have provided a copy of my child's medical insurance card to the Coach/Chaperone and have also provided any necessary medical history information or allergy information in writing (if applicable).

Signature _____

Date: _____

Please initial and date the ONE option that applies to the authorization and consent to treat:

1. _____ I approve the coach/chaperone to provide general cold medication if needed such as advil, tylenol, cough drops, etc. If yes, please provide a list of approved Medication list.

2. _____ I do not approve the coach/chaperone to provide general cold medication if needed such as advil, tylenol, cough drops, etc.

Signature _____

Date: _____

I have read, understand, and fully agree to the travel policy contained in this document.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of Swimmer: _____