



TEAM TRAVEL POLICY

Team travel swim meets are away meets that require overnight stay for the duration of the swim meet. Swimmers travel together as a team to the destination, from the hotel to the pool and back and back to Guelph.

A successful team is as much about in-pool performance as out of the pool, so a professional attitude, appearance, and mature behavior are expected at all times. Swimmers are representing their families, their team and the club when you travel and should conduct yourself accordingly.

Please note that safety, well-being and performance are our priority with team travel.

1. Why do team travel?

To provide an opportunity to be more self sufficient and accountable; to understand nutrition, rest, no outside racing distractions and to team build.

2. Is team travel mandatory?

No. However if you choose not to send your swimmer on a designated team travel meet, your swimmer will not be attending the meet.

3. Can I take my child to the team travel meet myself and meet up with the team for the weekend?

The swimmer must travel with the team. In certain cases, due to school commitments (exams etc.) and communicated well in advance, a coach may allow a swimmer to join up with the team. The travel costs have been set and there are no discounts to the fees of team travel in this circumstance. It is the responsibility of the parent to make all arrangements to connect the swimmer with the team upon arrival.

4. Can I take my child out of team travel early?

Yes. However, this must be communicated ahead of time with your swimmer's coach and chaperones and prior to leaving team travel the swimmer must be signed out with the chaperones. Leaving early can only happen after the swimmer's last session or a mutually agreed upon time with the coach. There are no discounts to the fees of team travel for leaving early.

5. Who gets to chaperone, may I chaperone?

If you wish to chaperone a team travel meet, please submit your name to the General Manager gmacswimclub@gmail.com. An acceptable vulnerable sector police screening record check must be completed and submitted prior to any chaperone selection. Please note, experienced chaperones will be selected first and where needed, a new chaperone to the club may be selected to train under them.

6. Where do I drop off and pick up my child?

Flying

Flight numbers and times will be provided

Your child/ren should be dropped off inside the airline carrier designated terminal where the team will gather prior to checking in their luggage. You must check in with the chaperone before leaving the airport.

Picking up your child/ren after team travel is done inside the terminal at the designated arrivals area where swimmers exit with their luggage. You must sign your swimmer out with the chaperone. You cannot text your swimmer to meet you outside or request chaperones to deliver your swimmer to the curbside or pick up point.

Bus

Drop off and pick up times will be communicated

Buses leave from the University of Guelph Parking lot #14 off of East Ring Road.

E-mail communications will be sent with key information such as arrival to the meet, departure from the meet and approximate arrival time to the community centre.

7. Do we receive notification of safe arrival?

Yes. An email is sent out upon arrival indicating safe arrival at the destination.

8. Can someone else pick up my child if I am unable to do so?

If you are not able to collect your child after team travel, notify your child's coach or chaperone which other GMAC parent or family member is permitted to sign your child out. Please e-mail this person's name and contact details to the coach and/or chaperone.

9. Do I need to pack food for my swimmer?

All snacks and meals are included in the cost of the trip (some exceptions may apply), however if there is a specific snack your child likes, you may include this food item in their luggage.

Under no circumstances is there to be any nuts/nut ingredients in any food brought on team travel.

If your child comes with candy, cookies, treats, it will be taken away until the end of the meet. All food must be nutritional.

10. Do the swimmers need money?

No money is necessary, however if a swimmer wishes to purchase a souvenir t-shirt or sweater from the meet, they will need their own money.

If there is an outing planned for a designated team travel, notice will go out prior to the departure and swimmers will need to bring money.

11. What's included in the cost?

Transportation, accommodation, all food (snacks and meals). (may be exceptions to snacks on travel day)

12. Can I request roommates for my swimmer?

Room requests can be made; however, they may not be granted. The coaches create rooming lists based on obtaining the best performance for the swimmers.

13. My child has an issue with their roommate, who would they speak to?

If a roommate is not being respectful and/or abiding by the GMAC designated team travel rules, your swimmer should speak to a coach or chaperone. Swimmers calling, texting and e-mailing parents delays resolving the problem on team travel. Coaches and/or chaperones can immediately and actively listen and problem solve.

14. If my child breaks curfew, what will happen?

Curfews are put in place to ensure that the swimmers are getting enough rest and being kept safe. If a child breaks curfew, the issue will be addressed by the coach and/or chaperone. Depending on the severity, the child risks being sent home at the parents' expense. Follow up with the Disciplinary Committee may also be necessary.

15. If my child breaks code of conduct what happens?

Code of Conduct is very important to maintain a safe environment for all. Depending on the severity of the offence, the swimmer will be addressed by the coaching staff in conjunction with a chaperone and may be sent home at the parents' expense.

Follow up and further action may be necessary once returned home.

16. How do I communicate with my child while they are on team travel?

Swimmers are not allowed their phones while on the deck, during meals or quiet time while travelling with the team. It is important for you as a parent to allow your child to experience team travel to the fullest. Swimmers are permitted to use their electronic devices during free time outside of any of the above-mentioned activities. Team travel is tightly scheduled for the benefit of the swimmers, hence communication with your child may be infrequent.

- a. All 12&under swimmers on team travel will surrender all electronic devices including phones, tables, ipods, video games, etc on or before 9pm by the chaperones. Items will be returned in the morning at the discretion of the chaperone.
- b. All 13&over swimmers on team travel will turn off all electronic devices include phones, tablets, ipods, video games, etc on or before 9pm.

17. Is there required travel attire?

Swimmers must wear an GMAC shirt specified by their Coach at departure and on team travel. This builds team spirit and makes it easier to identify and account for all swimmers by coaches and chaperones. Appropriate foot and weather related attire is also necessary. (Flip-flops/sandals are not acceptable other than for the pool deck)

18. How important is the deadline for the permission to travel forms?

The Permission to Travel forms provide essential medical and dietary information to the Guelph Marlins Aquatic Club. This information allows for planning of the athletes medical or dietary requirements. Catering is finalized shortly after submission deadline and last minute changes are not always accepted by the caterer.

19. My child has special dietary needs; how will you accommodate this?

On time completion and submission of your Permission to Travel forms will ensure your child's dietary needs are met. The caterer and chaperones work collaboratively to provide healthy and acceptable food options based on your child's dietary restrictions. It is difficult and sometimes costly to accommodate swimmers when the Permission to Travel forms are submitted past the deadline.

20. Do those with special dietary needs still get to eat with the team?

Yes, they will continue to eat with the team.

21. My child is a picky eater; can they have a special meal?

There will not be a special meal ordered unless there is an identified concern that is addressed in the Permission to Travel forms. Most meals are arranged buffet style providing various food options. Encourage your child to communicate with the chaperones whenever there is a concern regarding food.

22. What happens when my child calls home during the meet because they are not happy?

Understand swimmers calling home will not help the situation. Swimmers are asked at the very start of the meet to please communicate with their coach and chaperones if they are having an issue or need help while away. Coaches and chaperones are more equipped to handle every situation efficiently on team travel than parents who remain at home far away. Please encourage your swimmer to talk to the coach or chaperone, after all the chaperones are parents too.

23. If my child has a problem at the meet, who should they talk to?

Most often coaches are the best person for your child to speak to and this is the person with whom they are most familiar. They can also approach the chaperones for assistance.

24. If my child doesn't make finals, do they need to nap?

There is a designated quiet time for all swimmers between heats and finals. Napping is necessary for those swimmers preparing to race again. If your child has a quiet activity such as reading or listening to their music with headphones or studying, they are allowed this activity in their room, and do not need to necessarily sleep.

NO electronics or TV watching is permitted during quiet time.

25. In case of an emergency who would I contact while my child is away?

You may contact your child's coach or the designated coach or chaperone at the meet. If you are aware of an impending situation that might arise while your child is away, speak with the coach and/or chaperones prior to leaving.

26. Do I get daily reports on my child?

There are no personalized reports provided to parents during team travel. Results of your swimmers races should be available online with the following options – Meet Mobile, and sometimes GMAC Facebook. Chaperones are busy seeing to the needs of all swimmers and cannot provide updates via telephone or e-mail.

27. What happens when my child gets sick/injured on team travel?

GMAC travels with a full first aid kit for many different ailments. The type of injury will dictate the treatment and options available to coaches and chaperones. In the event of a severe injury the parent at home will be informed of the situation. Permission to Travel forms with current medical information is critical in making informed decisions.

Being unwell or ill will be dealt with by the chaperones, unless there is a need to call a medical doctor. Swimmers who show signs of fever or vomiting will be quarantined from the rest of the team for their own health and to protect the group. This may include staying in a chaperone's room.

28. I have paid for the team travel meet and decide not to send my child, will I receive a refund?

Flying

You will not receive the non-refundable deposit. You are responsible for the full cost of the flight and a flight credit will be issued in your child's name and all pertinent information will be provided to you, so you may use the credit for personal future use.

Bus

Any member backing out 29 days or less to the team travel will lose \$200 of your team travel payment.

29. What is the payment policy for team travel?

GMAC payment policy is designed to be transparent and allow members to plan financially for team travel accordingly. An initial sign up is required. A deadline for full payment and permission form will be provided and must be adhered to. Late fee of 5% for those submitting past the deadline.

***Note, any smaller team travel where travelling with a chaperone/coach via car will share in the mileage cost.

30. Who is allowed in Swimmer's room?

Chaperones and Coaches may visit rooms to do checks in room for cleanliness and collection of electronics or noise control. Other team members may visit rooms, and when deemed a feasible time may do so, doors will be left ajar for visitation. No member of the opposite sex may visit another member of the opposite sex in their room.

31. Room Damage/Phone Calls, etc

Any physical damage occurring in a room is the responsibility of the registered occupants, unless some other person are proven responsible. Financial responsibility falls on occupants and not Guelph Marlins Aquatic Club.

Any long distance phone calls made from room will be split up equally amongst occupants. We discourage use of the hotel phone.