**Team Travel Policy for Dubuque Area Swimmin’ Hurricanes**

**Purpose:** Athletes are most vulnerable to misconduct during travel. 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, and automobiles – is less structured and less familiar.

Team Travel is defined as travel to a swim meet or other team activity that is planned and supervised by the club or LSC.

**Travel policy**

1. Club travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches and other adults traveling with the club. (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 (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of that particular athlete). (305.5.A)
4. 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. (305.5C)
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. A copy of the Club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian.
7. Team or coaches should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.
8. Team or coaches should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
9. The directions & decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
10. Swimmers are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Swimmers are not to leave the competition venue, the restaurant, or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
11. 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.

*Safety*

1. The athlete must wear seat belts and remain seated when traveling with the team in a vehicle

*Behavior*

1. The athlete will respect travel vehicles

*General*

1. Parent(s) are responsible for getting their swimmer(s) to and from stated departure point