IN PROGRAM TRAVEL AND LODGING POLICY

Purpose: Athletes are most vulnerable to misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes 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 club or LSC. In almost all circumstances, a parent or guardian would attend out of town events with their athlete but, if an event is considered important to the athlete or team’s success and a parent cannot attend, the policy is in place to protect the athletes.

PACK follows the policies set forth by USA Swimming. They can be found on the USA Swimming website under Safe Sport MAAPP2.0 and are summarized below.

Travel policies must be signed and agreed to by athletes, parents, coaches and other adult participants traveling with the club. Written consent for travel and lodging must be provided at least annually and liability releases are required. Team managers and chaperones must be adult members of USA Swimming (they will have passed a background check and completed athlete protection training).

Regardless of gender or age, a coach may not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete unless a dual relationship exists (parent, sibling, etc). An adult participant who is not a coach may only share sleeping arrangements when a close in age exception applies and/or the parent or guardian has given written consent. (This would allow an 18 year old athlete to share a hotel room with another close in age athlete). No male athletes will be in female athlete’s hotel rooms and no female athletes will be in male athlete’s rooms. If only one coach and one athlete are traveling together, a buddy system should be established with another team. Written consent is required.

Observable, interruptible environments must be maintained at all times. In program meetings will not take place in hotel rooms. Athletes will be paired for sleeping with other athletes of similar age, gender and competition category. Room checks will be conducted with 2 deep leadership (2 adult participants).

Curfews will be established and enforced. Athletes must remain with the team at all times. Athletes and team members will attend all team functions. Athletes will stay in groups of no less than 3 while in public venues and athletes age 12 and under will remain with a chaperone at all times.

Transportation of minor athletes should not be one on one unless a dual relationship or close in age exception applies, in the event of an emergency or if written parental consent has been provided. At least 2 minor athletes or second adult participant should be in a vehicle. Adult participants should pick up their child first and drop them off last.

Consent forms are available under the Safe Sport tab.