

Approved Date:
Last Reviewed/Revised Date: 6/13/2019
Board President Signature:



**HOOD RIVER VALLEY 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 club or LSC.

This policy meets the intent and best practices of both USA Swimming and the US Center for Safe Sport Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) with respect to team travel.

DEFINITION OF APPLICABLE ADULT: All USA Swimming non-athlete members and adult athlete members, participating non-members (for example, meet marshals, meet computer operators, timers, etc.), LSC and club adult staff, board members, and any other adult authorized to have regular contact with or authority over a minor athlete.

SECTION ONE:

- I. The club travel policy must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches, and other Applicable Adults traveling with the club (USA Swimming Code of Conduct Section 305.5.D) for each instance of travel (MAAPP).
- II. Team managers and chaperones must be members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming administered criminal background check (USA Swimming Code of Conduct Section 305.5.B).
- III. Regardless of gender, non-athlete Applicable Adults must not share a hotel room, other sleeping arrangement, or overnight lodging location with an athlete unless the Applicable Adult is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of that particular athlete (USA Swimming Code of Conduct Section 305.5.A, MAAPP).
- IV. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, the athlete must have his or her parents or legal guardian’s written permission in advance to travel alone with the coach (USA Swimming Code of Conduct Section 305.5.C) for each instance of travel.

SECTION TWO:

- I. 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.
- II. Athletes should not ride in an Applicable Adult’s vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior parental permission is obtained.

- III. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age.
- IV. When a minor athlete and an adult athlete share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement, the minor athlete's legal guardian must provide written permission in advance for each shared sleeping arrangement instance.
- V. When only one athlete and one coach travel to a competition, at the competition the coach and athlete should attempt to establish a "buddy" club to associate with during the competition and when away from the venue.
- VI. 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 a spouse of the particular athlete.
- VII. Meetings during team travel must be conducted consistent with the One-on-One Interactions section of the Safe Sport MAAPP and the Club's One-on-One Interaction Policy. Meetings must not be conducted in an individual's hotels room or other overnight sleeping location and must be observable and interruptible.
- VIII. A copy of the club Code of Conduct must be signed by the athlete and his/her parent or legal guardian annually.
- IX. Team or LSC officials should obtain a signed Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form for each athlete.
- X. Team or LSC officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
- XI. Curfews shall be established by the team or LSC staff each day of the trip.
- XII. 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 their designee.
- XIII. The directions and decisions of coaches, chaperones, and team managers are final.
- XIV. 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 and knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- XV. When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theaters, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons. 12 and under athletes will be accompanied by a chaperone.
- XVI. The Head Coach or their designee shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate club or LSC leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.