

Louisiana Swimming – Team Travel Policy

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General – Team Travel
Revised: Sept 13, 2018

As part of USA Swimming's enhanced athlete protection efforts, USA Swimming require clubs and Local Swimming Committees (LSCs) to have published policies for team travel. Below are the policies adopted by Louisiana Swimming which shall be signed by the swimmers themselves, parents of each swimmer, coaches of each swimmer and chaperones who participate in team travel events.

- 1) I understand the terms of this agreement are in effect for all Louisiana Swimming team travel.
- 2) **“Team Travel”** is defined as *any overnight travel for athletes under 18 years of age to a practice, meet, trip, or event supervised by Louisiana Swimming or Swimmers Club for the time I arrive until the practice, meet, trip or event is concluded and I have departed the area or, in the case of a trip, returned home. Twelve (12) & under athletes are fully under the care of a parent/legal guardian.*
- 3) Meet/travel eligibility is determined by:
 - a) Qualifying for meet time standards;
 - b) Code of Conduct; and,
 - c) Final approval to attend is at the discretion of the coach.
- 4) Team coaches, managers and chaperones must be current members of USA Swimming and have successfully passed a USA Swimming administered criminal background check and successfully completed the Athlete Protection Training.
- 5) 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).
- 6) Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, unless prior written parental permission.
- 7) Aside from a supervised team room provided for relaxation and recreation, the propriety of athletes and staff shall be supported by maintaining no mixing of different gender athletes visiting behind closed doors. Therefore, 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 spouse of that particular athlete).

- 8) Curfews shall be established by the coach/chaperone each day of the trip.
- 9) 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.
- 10) When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc. swimmers will stay in groups of no less than three persons. Twelve (12) & under athletes will be accompanied by a coach/chaperone.
- 11) The coach/chaperone shall make a written report of Team Travel Policy or Code of Conduct violations to the Head Coach and parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete. Furthermore, at the discretion of the coach, violation of the Team Travel Policy or Code of Conduct may render expulsion from event and immediate departure at the parent's expense.
- 12) Further **safety considerations**:
 - a) Must wear seat belts and remain seated in vehicles.
- 13) Further **behavior considerations**:
 - a) Respect the privacy of each other;
 - b) Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in hotel;
 - c) Be prompt and on time; and,
 - d) Respect travel vehicles.
- 14) Further **financial considerations**:
 - a) No room service without permission;
 - b) Swimmers responsible for all hotel charges which include, but not limited to room rate and incidental charges;
 - c) Swimmer responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel.
 - d) Swimmer responsible for daily expenses included, but not limited to gas and food.
- 15) Each team coach may establish rules of conduct beyond those rules stated herein and those stated in any other manner. Swimmers are to abide by the rules established by their coach as rules established by Louisiana Swimming. I agree to follow the coach's rules and instruction, and to abide by any consequences as issued by the coach.
- 16) All team members, team staff, coaches, and parents of minors are apprised in writing of this Travel Policy. A signature on this document constitutes unconditional agreement to comply with the stipulations.

I agree to abide by all terms of the Louisiana Swimming Team Travel Policy.

Signature of **Swimmer**: _____ Date: _____

My swimmer and I have read and understand the agreement and agree to abide by the Louisiana Swimming Team Travel Policy.

Signature of **Parent/Guardian**: _____ Date: _____

My swimmer and I have read and understand the agreement and agree to abide by the Louisiana Swimming Team Travel Policy.

Signature of Team **Coach**: _____ Date: _____

I have read and understand the agreement and agree to abide by the Louisiana Swimming Team Travel Policy.

Signature of Trip **Chaperone**: _____ Date: _____