

Trailer Safety Reference Sheet



Each Disabled Sports USA chapter is responsible for creating their own policies and procedures to ensure the safety of their participants, volunteers, and employees. Please feel free to use this reference sheet to help shape your policies/procedures.

Helpful Tips:

- Trailer should be loaded heavier in front & rear of tow vehicle should not be overloaded
- Check for any wobbles on both vehicles prior to moving
- Check tow vehicles suspension alignment prior to moving
- Know the recommended maximum speed limit and clearance of trailer
- If you experience instability= take foot off gas paddle, steer straight, manually apply trailer brakes, do not increase speed when trailer is swaying or whipping
- To move trailer= turn wheel in opposite direction & be aware that trailer will turn quicker than a tow vehicle
- Allow extra turning space

Pre-Trip Check

- Regular Ball Hitch= tongue should be properly attached to vehicle hitch with locking mechanism snapped and lock pin in place
- Trailer connection should have two chains, criss-crossing in "X" shape & check connection before moving
- Connect electrical wires from trailer to vehicle and check signals to ensure they are working properly
- Consult owner's manual for information about how much weight your vehicle can haul
- Keep greater distance between your vehicle in front of you when hauling a trailer
- Take wider turns
- Take it slow, acceleration will take significantly longer
- Make sure you have plenty of room to exit the parking lot

On the Road

- Practice backing up in familiar area or open parking lot
- Drivers must overshoot their turns and take them wide enough so trailers path doesn't hit anything
- Keep safe distance behind cars in front of you
- Test vehicle power prior to getting on the road
- Avoid jackknifing (backing up and putting less than 90 degrees between trailer and vehicle)
- Keep movement of steering wheel to minimum and straighten out when necessary

For any questions, please contact Lily Jagodzinski at ljiagodzinski@dsusa.org

Disabled Sports USA

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