TRAVEL

 CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

LOCAL AND GROUP TRAVEL

 CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM distinguishes between travel to training, practice and local competition (“local travel”), and group travel involving a coordinated overnight stay (“group travel”).

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM does not sponsor, coordinate or arrange for travel. For local travel, athletes or their parents/guardians (for minor athletes) are responsible for making all travel arrangements. In these instances, it is the responsibility of the athlete or their parents/guardians (for minor/ward athletes) to ensure the person transporting the athlete maintains all safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver’s license, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicle and compliance with all state laws.

In an effort to minimize one-on-one interactions, Covered Individuals, who are not also acting as a parent or guardian, may not drive alone with an unrelated minor/ward athlete and should only drive with at least two other minor/ward athletes or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor/ward athlete’s parent or guardian in advance of travel. In any case where a Covered Individual is involved in the minor/ward athlete’s local travel, a parental release is required in advance. Efforts must be made to ensure that Covered Individuals are not alone with a minor/ward athlete or minor/ward participant, by, e.g., picking the athletes up in groups.

Covered Individuals who also are an athlete’s parent or guardian may provide transportation for their own athlete without restriction, but must still comply with the requirements above with respect to all other athletes. We encourage parents and guardians to pick up their athlete first and drop off their athlete last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement. We also recommend completing a shared travel declaration form signed by the parents/guardians of any minor/ward athlete who is being transported as part of such a carpool arrangement.

Group Travel

Group travel is overnight travel that occurs when CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that its athletes can train or compete locally, regionally, or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the athletes. However, no Covered Individual will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place, including valid drivers’ licenses, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicles and compliance with all state laws.

 CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM makes efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones on groups with minor/ward athletes. CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM policy dictates a maximum ratio of nine minor/ward athletes to one chaperone on trips and away camps.

For group travel, hotels and air travel will be booked in advance by CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM.
Athletes will share rooms, with 2-4 athletes assigned per room depending on accommodations. **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** will notify hotel management should any special arrangements be warranted. For instance, we will ask hotels to block pay per view channels and remove mini-bars. **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** will request an additional large room or suite so that our members and athletes may socialize as a group. Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, and we will reserve a separate space for coaches and athletes to socialize. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM**'s policies regarding one-on-one interactions (i.e. all meetings shall be observable and interruptible, among other requirements). When doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership (two Covered Individuals should be present) and observable and interruptible environments should be maintained.

For minor/ward athletes, **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** permits family members to stay at the hotel. We encourage all athletes to call parents and guardians regularly and allow for any unscheduled calls by either the athlete or parent/guardian.

Group travel policies must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, and Covered Individuals traveling with **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM**. Covered Individuals who travel with the organization must successfully pass a background check and other screening requirements consistent with **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM**'s policies.

Please note that regardless of the location of the event, **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** policies on providing alcohol to minors follows U.S. law, and parents and guardians are expected to adhere to this policy, especially when staying near or with the group. No parent should provide alcohol to minors during **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** travel. Violations of this policy will be addressed under the Disciplinary Rules and Procedure and may result in the sanctions as set forth therein, including, but not limited to, temporary or permanent suspension from competition or participation with **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM**.

**TRAVEL NOTIFICATION**
When possible, **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** will provide reasonable advance notice of details before group travel. Notice will include the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice also will include designated group hotels for overnight stays, as well as a contact person within **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM**. For minors and wards, this individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

For minor/ward athletes, **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** will distribute specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed, hour-by-hour itinerary, as well as contact information for group travel chaperones.

**MIXED-GENGER AND MIXED-AGE TRAVEL**
**CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** groups are sometimes made up of male and female athletes across various ages. Athletes will only share a room with other athletes of the same sex and age group. Athletes will be grouped by age and sex for the purposes of assigning an appropriate chaperone. **CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM** will make every effort to provide these groups at least one chaperone of the same sex.
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). Where an adult is registered both as a coach and an athlete member of a CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM group or camp, and is functioning primarily as a coach, he or she may share sleeping arrangements with another registered coach.

**COACH AND STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

During group travel, coaches and staff members will help athletes, fellow coaches and staff members adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy, Locker Rooms and Changing Areas Policy and Reporting Policy.

If a coach or staff member transports an athlete or other organization member in their private car or a vehicle rented or owned by CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM for group travel, a copy of the coach’s or staff member's valid driver’s license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance is required and must be on file with CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM in advance.

When not practicing, training, competing or preparing for competition, coaches and staff will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and staff during group travel. Coaches and staff will:

a. prepare athletes for group travel and make athletes aware of all expectations.
b. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of group travel
c. conform to, and monitor for others’ adherence, the Sport Protection Policy and all policies during group travel
d. encourage athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians, if applicable
e. help athletes be on time for all group commitments (as possible)
f. assist with group travel logistical needs (as possible)  
g. support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
h. ensure athletes are complying with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
i. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult apart from a family member; this includes coaches, staff and chaperones
j. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties
k. immediately report any concerns about physical or sexual abuse, misconduct, or policy violations
l. notify parents before taking any disciplinary action against a minor athlete if the athlete is traveling without his or her parents
m. immediately address and report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or policy violations as required under this Handbook and applicable law.

**CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Chaperones accompany group travel to ensure that the athletes, coaches, staff and volunteers adhere to the CHAPTER NAME/ACRONYM’s policy guidelines. While these include the travel policy, it also
includes all other relevant policies contained in CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM’s Sport Protection Handbook.

Chaperones must have undergone a criminal background check and awareness training, as outlined in this Handbook.

If a chaperone will be operating a private car for group travel, a copy of the chaperone’s valid driver’s license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance is required and must be on file with CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM.

Chaperones will monitor the activities of all coaches, staff members, volunteers and athletes during group travel. Specifically, chaperones will:

a. familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before group travel
b. encourage athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents/guardians, as applicable
c. help athletes be on time for all group commitments (as possible)
d. assist coaches, staff and other volunteers with group travel logistical needs (as possible)
e. monitor athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary
f. ensure athletes comply with hotel room restrictions based on gender or age bracket requirements
g. not use drugs or alcohol in the presence of minors or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their chaperone duties
h. make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room with any adult, including coaches, staff and chaperones, apart from a family member or guardian
i. immediately address and report any concerns about sexual and physical abuse, misconduct or policy violations as required under this Handbook and applicable law.

VIOLATIONS
Violations of this policy must be reported to CHAPTER NAME/ ACRONYM pursuant to its Reporting Policy. Violations will be addressed under the Disciplinary Rules and Procedure and may result in the sanctions as set forth therein, including temporary or permanent suspension. Some violations may constitute physical or sexual abuse that must be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities.