

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports

Team Travel Policy

Approved 1/27/2019

USA Water Ski & Wake Sports (USA-WSWS) has adopted the following travel policy to provide for the safety and enjoyment of all athletes while traveling and participating in events. In addition to this travel policy, all team staff members and athletes are required to adhere to the USA Water Ski & Wake Sports code of conduct. This policy applies to USA-WSWS events and USA-WSWS member clubs who organize travel for any club events or activities.

Travel Policy for USA-WSWS Team Events

USA-WSWS has sport divisions where teams are formed to travel to compete in national and international competitions. In addition, USA-WSWS has member clubs that may also form teams to travel and compete in various events. USA-WSWS prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA-WSWS SafeSport Handbook. USA-WSWS has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the athletes experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local tournaments (“local travel”) and team travel involving an overnight stay (“team travel”).

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when USA-WSWS does not sponsor, coordinate or arrange for travel.

- Athletes and/or their parents/guardian are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor athlete maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including but not limited to: a valid driver’s license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches and/or volunteers of USA-WSWS or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when USA-WSWS or one of its teams or member clubs sponsors, coordinates, or arranges for travel so that a team can compete locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, USA-WSWS will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within USA-WSWS or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- Regardless of gender, a team staff member shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor athlete (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the athlete).
- The coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all minor athletes must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time should only one adult be present in a room with minor athletes, regardless of gender.
- Team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay per view channels.
- Individual meetings between a team staff member and an athlete may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present, with at least one of those adults being the same gender as the player.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted and encouraged to do so.
- The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
- No team staff member or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching, staff job, and/or chaperoning duties.
- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor athlete.

- Prior to any travel, team staff members will endeavor to make athletes and parents aware of all expectations and rules. Team staff members will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.
- If disciplinary action against an athlete is required while the athlete is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken, or immediately after.
- Athletes are always expected to remain with the team during the trip. Athletes are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, restaurant or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the team staff members or chaperone.
- When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc., minor athletes will stay in groups of no less than three persons. Athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone.