

**Team Travel - Lodging Policy**

**Policy Application**

In conjunction with the US Center for SafeSport’s Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, this policy shall apply to all In-Program Travel and interactions between Minor Athletes and the following individuals:

* + - 1. Any adult who has regular contact with amateur athletes who are minors.
1. Any adult authorized by USA Swimming to have regular contact with or authority over an amateur athlete who is a minor (including athletes and non-athletes ages 18+). Examples include but are not limited to:
	1. FCST coaches, admin staff and Board members
	2. Meet officials and safety marshals.
	3. Chaperones and other authorized volunteers

(Collectively “Adult Participants” for the purposes of this policy.)

**In-Program Travel**

Any travel involving an Adult Participant and any Minor Athlete(s) related to participation in sport authorized or funded by the Organization. Examples include, but are not limited to transportation or travel to or related to: competition, practices, meetings, camps/clinics, training/instructional sessions, pre/post event meals or outings, team travel, video review, team- or sport related team building activities, celebrations, award ceremonies, banquets, team- or sport-related fundraising or community services, sport education, competition site visits, conventions, conferences, summits and/or workshops.

Mandates for Overnight Lodging

Hotel Rooms and Other Sleeping Arrangements a. All In-Program Contact at a hotel or lodging site between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete must be observable and interruptible, and an Adult Participant cannot share a hotel room or otherwise sleep in the same room with a Minor Athlete(s), except if: i. A Dual Relationship Exists, and the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; ii. The Close-in-Age Exception applies, and the Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided the Organization with advance, written consent for the lodging arrangement; or iii. The Minor Athlete needs a Personal Care Assistant, and: (1) The Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian has provided advance, written consent to the Organization for the Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant to work with the Minor Athlete and for the lodging arrangement; (2) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Education & Training Policy; and (3) The Adult Participant Personal Care Assistant has complied with the Organization’s screening policy. b. Written consent from a Minor Athlete’s parent/guardian must be obtained for all InProgram lodging at least annually. 2. Monitoring or Room Checks During In-Program Travel If the Organization or team performs room checks during In-Program lodging, the one-onone interaction policy must be followed and at least two adults must be present for the room checks. 3. Additional Requirements for Lodging Authorized or Funded by the Organization a. Adult Participants traveling with the Organization must agree to and sign the Organization’s lodging policy at least annually. b. Adult Participants that travel overnight with Minor Athlete(s) are assumed to have Authority over Minor Athlete(s) and thus must comply with the Center’s Education & Training Policy.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q:**How is “overnight lodging location” in Section II(b) defined?

**A**: Overnight lodging location refers to a non-traditional lodging situation that teams might use. This

includes, but is not limited to, non-traditional arrangements such as VRBO rentals, Air BNBs, campers,

trailers, etc. All the travel rules apply to these locations as well.

**Q:** Can an adult athlete share a hotel or sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete?

**A:** Yes, an adult athlete can share a hotel room, other sleeping arrangement or overnight lodging location with a minor athlete only if the minor athlete’s legal guardian provides written permission in advance and one of the policy exceptions applies. A coach may never share a hotel or sleeping arrangement with a minor athlete.

**Q:** Can families traveling to a competition share an Air BNB or VRBO?

**A:** Yes. If the travel is not “organized or supervised by the team” and/or one of the policy exceptions exists, then families can make their own arrangements for accommodations. Under no circumstance can a coach share a hotel room, other sleeping arrangement or overnight lodging location with an athlete.

**Q:** What is different between a VRBO or Air BNB and a hotel? Especially if everyone has their own rooms, and bathroom.

A: A temporary residence rental such an a VRBO or an AirBNB provides opportunity for more personal and casual encounters between Adult Participants and minor athletes than a hotel. This sort of casual setting provides an environment where boundaries can be crossed.