

Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization

Team Travel Policy

Purpose

Athlete Safety is of paramount concern to the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization (LOWPO). The purpose of the Team Travel Policy is to protect athletes. Team Travel is defined as travel to a tournament or other team activity that is planned and supervised by LOWPO and may include overnight stays.

Athletes are vulnerable to misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a risk of athlete-to-athlete misconduct. During travel, athletes are often away from their families and support networks, and new settings may be less structured and less familiar. Adhering to Team Travel Policies will help protect athletes.

Section 1 - Required Policies

These policies must be strictly adhered to on any official team travel event.

1. Club travel policies including the [Code of Conduct](#) and the [Liability Release and Indemnification Form](#) must be read, signed, and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches, and other adults traveling with the club.
 - a. A signature on these documents constitutes unconditional agreement to comply with the stipulations of both documents.
 - b. Failure to comply with the [Code of Conduct](#) as set forth may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to: verbal warning, phone call to legal guardian, suspension or disqualification from one or more events, suspension or disqualification from future events, financial penalties, dismissal from trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense, dismissal from team, or proceedings for USA Water Polo disciplinary action.
2. All adult participants who have regular contact with minor athletes and are in a position of authority, or are employees or board members of the organization, are required to maintain up-to-date SafeSport training and pass a background check through USA Water Polo.
 - a. This includes all coaches, team managers, trainers, etc.
3. Official adult chaperones assigned by the organization must complete a background check before they may travel as an official chaperone with the organization.
 - a. This DOES NOT include adults transporting and lodging with minor athletes who have made arrangements and been given a guardian's permission outside of the scope of the organization, such as a teammate, family friend, or relative.
4. All interactions between minor athletes and adults, including but not limited to, official coaches, managers, and assigned chaperones of the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization, must be **interruptible and observable**.
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, or explicit written consent is given by the athlete's parent or guardian).
6. When only one athlete and one official coach, manager, or assigned chaperone of the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization travel to or from or lodge together at an event, the athlete's legal guardian must give explicit written permission in advance (unless the coach is the parent, guardian, sibling, or spouse of that particular athlete).
7. If minor athletes are sharing a room without an assigned official chaperone, no adult may enter that room unless:
 - a. In cases of a medical emergency
 - b. To prevent harm of a minor athlete
 - c. At least two adults and two or more minors are present and the interaction satisfies the policy that it is **observable and interruptible** by others.

Section 2 - In Program Transportation Policies

These policies must be strictly adhered to on any official team travel event.

1. All transportation interactions between minor athletes and official coaches, managers, and assigned chaperones of the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization must be **interruptible and observable**.
2. In-Program transportation requirements are met if the Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult

- Participant or at least two minors, unless a documented exception exists.
3. One-on-one In-Program travel is permitted between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete when advance written consent is obtained from a parent/guardian. (Can be withdrawn at any time.)
 4. Written consent must be obtained from a parent/guardian for all transportation sanctioned by the Organization. This is satisfied by the signature of [Liability Release and Indemnification Form](#).

Section 3 - Recommended Policies

These policies reflect best practices and the values of the organization. They are the responsibility of the coaches, managers, trainers, chaperones, and other responsible adults traveling with the organization to reference and apply when relevant.

1. During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and open and observable environments should be maintained.
2. Athletes should not be alone with or ride in a coach's vehicle without another adult present who is the same gender as the athlete, or at least two other additional athletes, unless prior parental permission is obtained.
3. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age.
 - a. Where athletes are age 13 & over, chaperones and/or team managers would ideally stay in nearby rooms:
 - i. Chaperones and team managers would ideally have completed SafeSport training and a background check
 - ii. Chaperones and team managers would ideally establish routines and 2 different curfews, one for in-own-room and one for lights out.
 - b. When athletes are age 12 & under, chaperones and/or team managers may stay with athletes:
 - i. Where chaperones/team managers are staying in a room with athletes, they should be the same gender as the athletes and written consent should be given by the athlete's legal guardian, and they should have completed a background check.
 1. This DOES NOT include adults transporting and lodging with minor athletes who have made arrangements and been given a guardian's permission outside of the scope of the organization, such as a teammate, family friend, or relative.
4. 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, or when arrangements and permissions have been arranged outside of the scope of the organization, such as a teammate, family friend, or relative).
5. Team officials should carry a signed Medical Consent or Authorization to Treat Form for each athlete.
 - a. This is satisfied by the electronic signature of [Liability Release and Indemnification Form for Minor Travelers](#)
6. Two curfews should be established by the coach/chaperones each day of the trip, one for in-own-room and one for lights out.
7. Team members and staff traveling with the team will attend all team functions including meetings, practices, meals, meet sessions, etc. unless otherwise excused or instructed by the head coach or his/her designee.
8. The directions and decisions of coaches/chaperones are final.
9. Athletes are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip and 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 coach or chaperone.
10. When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theaters, etc., athletes 13 and over should stay in groups of no less than three persons.
11. When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theaters, etc., athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone that has the explicit permission to chaperone the athletes and satisfies the requirements to be an official team chaperone.
 - a. This DOES NOT include adults chaperoning minor athletes who have made arrangements and been given a guardian's permission outside of the scope of the organization, such as a teammate, family friend, or relative.
12. A written report should be made of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the appropriate leadership and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.

Section 4 - Policies for Adults Traveling with the Team

These policies reflect the values of the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization. The actions and words of an adult

traveling with the organization can have positive and negative implications on the athletes and organization as whole. In recognition of this, the adults traveling with the team should behave as positive role models.

1. Adults are role models and should display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrators, teammates, fellow competitors, and the public at all times.
2. If an adult is an official chaperone who has volunteered to chaperone and is assigned by the organization, that adult shall complete a background check prior to the trip and prior to assuming responsibility for minor athletes.
 - a. This DOES NOT include adults chaperoning minor athletes who have made arrangements and been given a guardian's permission outside of the scope of the organization, such as a teammate, family friend, or relative.
3. Intoxication:
 - a. Adults should not be intoxicated when in the presence of minor athletes.
 - b. Official chaperones traveling with LOWPO and assuming responsibility for minor athletes agree not to become intoxicated while supervising minor athletes.
 - c. Any adult who is officially chaperoning for the Lake Oswego Water Polo Organization and is in charge of transporting a minor in a vehicle shall not drink alcohol or take any other substance which may impair their ability to operate a vehicle.