



Sweden Player Travel Policy

Saint Paul Blackhawks would like to provide some guidance as it relates to players traveling for the Gothia Cup Tournament in Sweden. The information below are intended to be a guide to help make the travel easier on the families. Coaches and managers may modify plans to meet the specific needs of the team at any time.

Why do we Travel to Sweden

We travel to Sweden to provide a very unique competitive experience for our kids, an opportunity to visit multiple foreign countries while living our mission of building character and community through independence and club bonding opportunities. Players will get to practice and play friendly games with our international host teams. Each Blackhawk team will be guaranteed 4 games in the Gothia Cup Tournament, the world's largest and most International youth football tournament. Each year, around 1700 teams from 80 nations take part in the Gothia Cup. There will be some sight-seeing trips as well as unscheduled time to explore in small groups or relax.

Travel Plans

*Check out the [Trip Brochure](#) for an overview of the trip as coordinated by Travel and Play
[Daily player itinerary overview](#) provides more Club specific details*

Daily Itinerary specifics for each team may not be provided until a couple weeks before the group leaves..

General Team Travel Guidelines

- All members of the trip will adhere to the Club's [Code of Conduct](#) policy
- Players will stay in multiple schools throughout the trip.
- Family members traveling with will stay in hotels booked by Travel and Play as part of their travel package.
- Meals are partially provided throughout the trip. These details of how many and which meals are outlined in the Travel and Play brochure available on our [Sweden Page](#) of our website. Players will be responsible for the cost of food outside of the planned meals.
- Each Coach will be the authority and responsible person for their team throughout the whole trip.
[Coach Roles/Responsibility Document](#)

- Chaperones will be vetted by the Blackhawk Staff to ensure completion of a background check as well as the completion of SafeSport training.
- Chaperones will remain with the team throughout the entire trip. [Chaperone Roles & Responsibilities](#)

Policies and Procedures

- [Blackhawks Code of Conduct](#)
- [Travel and Play Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Coach Roles/Responsibility Document](#)
- [Chaperone Roles & Responsibilities](#)
- [Report a concern to Blackhawks](#)
- [US Soccer SafeSport Handbook](#)
- [Report a concern to US Soccer](#)

Player Safety

- Coaches and Chaperones will stay in the schools with the players.
- There will be a ratio of 1 Coach/Chaperone for every 10 players traveling.
- Chaperones will have background checks and complete SafeSport training.
- Players will only be allowed to separate from the larger group after obtaining permission from a coach and/or chaperone. Players must be in groups of 3 or more to be allowed to separate from the group.
- The club follows all policies as outlined in the [US Soccer SafeSport Handbook](#) to ensure your players safety. Additional information can also be found at [US Soccer SafeSport FAQ page](#)
- Players will stay with their Coaches and Chaperones in various schools throughout the trip. See the [Lodging Accommodations](#) information for more information
- Gothia Cup has their own security to provide security to all those at the tournament. You can find more information in the [Gothia Cup Security Information](#)
- [Gothia Cup Child Safety Policy](#) outlines the tournament's information about child safety including how to report any unsafe behavior, practices or environments.
- All Travelers (Players, Family Members, Coaches, Chaperones) have a duty to report any behavior that is in violation of any of these policies.

More information can be found in the [Sweden Gothia Trip FAQ](#)

Addendum 1: Travel Plan Example

20XX Blackhawks Travel Itinerary USYS National League Midwest Conference Sept 24-26, 20XX

Hotel: Country Inn and Suites

*7011 122nd Ave
Kenosha, WI
262-857-3680*

Soccer Fields:

FR & SAT

Bavarian Soccer Club – Heartland Value Fund Stadium
*700 W Lexington Blvd
Glendale, WI*

SUN

PWSB Soccer Complex – 03
*N143W6499 Layton St
Cedarburg, WI*

Behavioral Guidelines:

1. **DOUBLE CHECK THAT YOU HAVE ALL OF YOUR SOCCER GEAR** – Red and White jerseys, black shorts, black socks. Also bring your red and white training jerseys to wear during team activities this weekend. Parents, please help double check with the boys
2. Athletes make good choices when they travel. Eat healthy food prior to and throughout the tournament. Make sure you get proper rest and respect curfews. Stay out of direct sun as much as possible outside of game environments. Keep activity to a minimum prior to games. **NO SODA or fried foods for the weekend and drink plenty of water!**
3. Try to minimize the use of electronics. No cell phones, tablets, electronic games, etc. in public areas when we are together. We want the boys to focus on teambuilding and getting to know each other.
4. Parents and players, please follow our Blackhawks Club Code of Conduct. Represent our club, St. Paul, and Minnesota with class. Cheer positively, no negative talk/commenting to the other teams or the referees.
5. Players **MUST** make all team meetings including morning stretches and breakfast.

Team Leaders Phone numbers:

COACH NAME	XXX-XXX-XXXX
MANAGER NAME	XXX-XXX-XXXX

Packing List: * If anyone is flying, please make sure the players' full jersey, shoes, shin guards and un-replaceable things are in the carry-on!**

- Red and White uniform sets (red jersey, white jersey, black shorts, white socks, black socks)
- Bring extra socks if you have them!
- Shin guards and soccer cleats
- Blackhawks Warm-up (or sweatpants and sweatshirt)
- Red and White Blackhawks Training Tops
- Tennis shoes or indoor shoes
- Sandals/slides
- Water bottle (empty)
- Soccer bag / backpack
- Trash bag to put soccer bag in if it rains
- Casual clothes (guidelines – pack more/less as needed)
 - 2 tshirts
 - 1-2 shorts
 - 1-2 sweatshirts
 - 1-2 pants (jeans or sweatpants)
 - 3 pairs of socks
 - 3-4 pairs of underwear
 - Pajamas
 - Swim suit
- Any personal food or medications you need

- *Toothbrush and toothpaste*
- *Sunscreen*
- *Spending Money*
- *Phone chargers and headphones if needed*

Schedule:

Friday, Sept 24

- *Leave Minneapolis between 9am-11am*
- *Check-in to hotel between 3pm-5pm*
- *Team Meeting in Hotel Lobby 5:30pm*
- *Team Stretch and Warm-up 5:45 @Bavarian Fields*
- ***Match: 6:30pm vs North Shore United @Bavarian***
- *Team pizza party at hotel 8:30pm*
- *Bedtime 9:30pm, lights out no later than 10pm*

Saturday, Sept 25

- *7:30am Team Breakfast and stretch at Hotel*
- *8:15am leave for fields*
- ***10:00am match vs Bavarian United @Bavarian***
- *Team Lunch – families on their own*
- *6pm: Team dinner and activity (TBD)*
- *Bedtime 9:30pm, lights out no later than 10pm*

Sunday, Sept 26

- *8:30am Team Breakfast and stretch at Hotel*
- *9:15am leave for fields*
- ***11:00am match vs Croatian Eagles @PWSB***
- *Leave for home*

Addendum 2: Additional Modifications to Consider for COVID

Saint Paul Blackhawks recognizes that travel is needed for certain of our leagues as well as for activities related to championship play or college recruiting. We provide this guidance to teams making that decision to travel with the intent to mitigate the risk involved with such activities.

Guiding Principles

- Families have the final decision on the choices they make in regard to travel with no repercussions from the coach or club.
- We support families making the choice that is correct for their own situation, but ask that plans also be made to minimize exposure and transmission within the club to protect our ability to continue training together.
- Coaches and Team Managers or designated chaperones take responsibility for researching, communicating and team compliance with requirements and recommendations for the states they are traveling and returning to;

reinforcing diligent precautions at all times; making choices for the team based on the safest decision that allows for social distancing and avoiding crowds.

Basic Expectations

- Be familiar with [MN Department of Health](#) and [CDC](#) guidance on travel during COVID-19, including any recommended or required testing or isolation before and after.
- Wear a mask, stay 6 feet apart from others, avoid crowds, wash hands often.
- If a player develops symptoms or tests positive while on the trip, the expectation is that state and CDC travel guidelines will be followed and parents will travel to take care of any ill players.
- It is recommended that all adults traveling with the team be vaccinated prior to the trip.

Travel

- Follow CDC masking guidelines at all times on public transportation.
- It is recommended that players travel with their family group if possible, with set travel pods if not.
- Provide more space than normal for seating (leave empty seats between passengers) when possible.
- Have windows down and maximize fresh air flow when possible.
- Keep travel pods consistent throughout the trip and reflective of accommodation arrangements (i.e. when applicable, players driving together should also house together.).

Accommodations

- It is recommended that players travel and stay with their parents when possible.
- When not, it is recommended the max number of players assigned per room be 3-4.
- Roommates should be the same as carpool/travel pods to keep exposure limited.
- It is recommended to have consistent roommates and travel arrangements for trips throughout the season to keep exposure limited.

Team Meetings

- It is best to be held outside with social distancing and masks.
- If conditions require you to be inside, plan for a much larger than normal space with social distancing and masks. Meetings should not be held in player, coach or chaperone rooms.

Team Meals

- Meals should be take-out or outdoors if a restaurant is a necessity.
- It is recommended players eat in their rooms or outside when possible with proper social distancing.

Team Activities

- Avoid activities in crowded spaces and plan for outdoor activities if possible.
- Consider bringing cards or other portable games for players to use in their rooms.

Games & Practices

- Teams will follow all precautions and procedures set forth by leagues, venues or tournaments.