



Starting September 1, 2021, all USA Swimming member clubs and LSCs are required to implement the updated Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP) in full. This resource is intended to provide information to the In-Program Travel and Lodging section of the policy.

Travel and Lodging

Club travel and lodging occur frequently in our sport and presents a series of unique risk factors. The goal of this policy is to minimize the opportunity for an Adult Participant to abuse a minor athlete during travel and lodging.

Before MAAPP, USA Swimming rules required every team establish a travel policy. This section of MAAPP replaces that requirement. Members will note that this section of the MAAPP is similar to USA Swimming's previous Model Policy on Team Travel and published Best Practice Guidelines.

A legal guardian must consent, on an annual basis, in writing, their consent for all In-Program Travel and Lodging that occurs during In-Program Contact. Additionally, in advance, for every instance in which their minor athlete travels alone with an Adult Participant the legal guardian must provide consent. Please note, it is the responsibility of the team to maintain parent consent forms covered in this section.

Teams often try to save money during team travel. For example, it has become a common practice for teams to rent a house which may be more cost effective than paying for hotel rooms. That practice is no longer permissible.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When a carpool is arranged between parents who are not Adult Participants, is this carpool covered under the policy?

A: No. The policy only covers travel between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete. It is still recommended that the parent pick up their child first and drop off their child last to prevent being one-on-one with an unrelated minor.

Q: Can Adult Participants ride alone in a vehicle with a minor athlete?

A: Adult Participants must not ride in a vehicle alone with an unrelated minor athlete, absent emergency circumstances or one of the three exceptions provided in the MAAPP and must always have at least two minor athletes or another adult in the vehicle, unless agreed to in writing by the minor athlete's legal guardian.

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 as 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.