

## **WYHA Travel Policy**

A portion of WYHA participation can involve overnight travel for youth teams to games and tournaments. Youth players are most vulnerable to abuse or misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a greater risk of player to player misconduct. During travel, players may be away from their families and support networks, and the setting – unfamiliar locker rooms, automobiles, and hotel rooms – is less structured and less familiar. A travel policy provides guidelines so that care is taken to minimize one-on-one interactions between youths and adults while traveling. Further, the policy directs how youth players will be supervised between and during travel to and from practice and competitions. Adherence to travel policies helps to reduce the opportunities for misconduct.

### Local Travel

- Teams, coaches, team managers, administrators and/or volunteers should avoid sponsoring, coordinating, or arranging for local travel, and the parents/guardians of a youth player should be responsible for making all local travel arrangements.
- Teams, coaches, team managers, administrators and/or volunteers who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated player and should only drive with at least two other players or another adult at all times, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the player's parent or guardian.
- Where teams, coaches, team managers, administrators and/or volunteers are involved in an unrelated youth player's local travel, efforts should be made to ensure that the adult personnel are not alone with the unrelated player, by e.g., picking the players up in groups.
- Coaches, team managers, administrators and/or volunteers who are also a player's parent or guardian may provide shared transportation for any player(s) if they pick up their player first and drop off their player last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.
- It is recognized that in some limited instances it will be unavoidable for an employee, coach or volunteer of WYHA or one of its teams to drive alone with an unrelated youth player. However, efforts should be made to minimize these occurrences and to mitigate any circumstances that could lead to allegations of abuse or misconduct.

### WYHA/Team Travel (aka Overnight Travel)

- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a youth player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Because of the greater distances, coaches, team managers, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players. No coach or volunteer will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place and on record, including valid drivers' licenses, automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with all state laws. These coach and/or volunteer chaperones shall have been screened in compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy and all team drivers shall have been screened and the screen shall include a check of appropriate Department of Motor Vehicle records. To clarify, "team drivers" means "recognized or scheduled" team drivers, not those drivers who may transport another player at the last minute or as an emergency stand in. In any case, there should not be instances where a non-parent/guardian is alone with an unrelated minor in the car.
- The team shall provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones (e.g., a recommended number would include at least one coach or adult chaperone for every five to eight

players). If a team is composed of both male and female players, then it is recommended that chaperones are arranged of the same gender.

- Players should share rooms with other players of the same gender, with 2-4 players assigned per room depending on accommodations.
- Regular monitoring and curfew checks should be made of each room by at least two properly screened adults. All coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones travelling with a team shall be familiar with the SafeSport Program Handbook to monitor compliance with all SafeSport Policies.
- The team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay per view channels.
- Individual meetings between a player and coach may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms.
- All players shall be permitted to make regular check in phone calls to parents. Team personnel shall allow for any unscheduled check in phone calls initiated by either the player or parents/guardians.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel shall be permitted and encouraged to do so.
- The team shall make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent/guardian.
- Specific travel itineraries will be distributed to parents when they are available and will include a detailed itinerary as well as contact information for all team personnel and chaperones.
- If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, parents will be notified before any action is taken.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.
- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their youth player and have the youth player stay in their hotel room.

### **Prohibited Conduct and Reporting**

WYHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook. Participants, parents, employees or volunteers in WYHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of the Travel Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. To report any actual or suspected violations, you may email USA Hockey at [SafeSport@usahockey.org](mailto:SafeSport@usahockey.org) or may call 1-800-888-4656.

WYHA's Travel Policies will follow policies that may be issued by Minnesota District 3 Hockey, Minnesota Hockey and/or USA Hockey.