



Travel and Lodging Policy

Minor Athlete Abuse Protection Policy (MAAPP)

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

Before MAAPP, USA Swimming rules required every team to establish a travel policy. This section of MAAPP replaces that requirement. It closely mirrors USA Swimming's former Model Policy on Team Travel and its published Best Practice Guidelines.

- **Annual Consent:** A legal guardian must provide written consent annually for all *In-Program Travel and Lodging* that occurs during In-Program Contact.
- **Specific Consent:** In advance of any instance where a minor athlete travels alone with an Adult Participant, the legal guardian must provide written consent.
- **Record Keeping:** It is the responsibility of the team to maintain parent consent forms covered in this section.
- **Housing Restrictions:** While cost-saving strategies such as renting a shared house (e.g., Airbnb or VRBO) were once common, this practice is **no longer permissible** under MAAPP for team-organized travel.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A: No. The policy only covers travel between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete. However, it is recommended that parents pick up their own child first and drop them off last to avoid being one-on-one with another unrelated minor.

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

A: No. Adult Participants must not ride alone with an unrelated minor athlete unless:



- There are emergency circumstances, or
 - One of the three MAAPP exceptions applies, or
 - The minor athlete's legal guardian has given written consent in advance.
Otherwise, there must always be at least **two minor athletes or another adult** present in the vehicle.
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Q: How is “overnight lodging location” defined in Section II(b)?

A: This refers to non-traditional lodging situations such as VRBO rentals, Airbnbs, campers, trailers, etc. All travel rules still apply to these locations.

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

A: Yes, but only if:

- The minor athlete's legal guardian provides written permission in advance, and
- One of the MAAPP policy exceptions applies.

Important: A coach may never share a hotel room, sleeping arrangement, or overnight lodging with a minor athlete.

Q: Can families traveling to a competition share an Airbnb or VRBO?

A: Yes, families may arrange their own accommodations if the travel is not organized or supervised by the team and/or if one of the policy exceptions applies.

Important: Coaches are prohibited from sharing lodging (hotel, rental, or otherwise) with athletes under all circumstances.

Q: What is the difference between a VRBO/Airbnb and a hotel if everyone has their own rooms and bathrooms?

A: Temporary residence rentals (like VRBO or Airbnb) provide opportunities for more personal and casual encounters between Adult Participants and minor athletes compared to hotels, which typically have more structured, public spaces. For this reason, the policy applies more restrictively to such rentals.