

**NWCHARGERS.ORG**

**f @ NWCHARGERSHOCKEY**



# TRAVEL POLICY

UPDATED: 08/13/24



# TRAVEL POLICY

Northwest Chargers Hockey Association (NWCHA) has some teams that travel regularly to play individual games, two or three games at a time, or in tournaments, some teams where travel is limited to only a few events per year, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own arena. NWCHA has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions, and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience. For a detailed description of how many out-of-town trips are allowable per team, please see the NWCHA [PARENT HANDBOOK](#).

We distinguish between travel to training, practice, and local games or practices ("local travel") and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay ("team travel").

## **Local Travel**

Local travel occurs when NWCHA or one of its teams does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel.

- Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements for local travel. The team and its coaches, managers, or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating local travel. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to ensure the person transporting the minor player maintains the proper safety and legal requirements, including, but not limited to, a valid driver's license, automobile liability insurance, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with applicable state laws.
- The employees, coaches, and/or volunteers of NWCHA or one of its teams who are not also acting as parents should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player and should only drive with at least two players or another adult at all times unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the minor player's parent.
- Where an employee, coach, and/or volunteer is involved in an unrelated minor player's local travel, efforts should be made to ensure that the adult personnel is not alone with the unrelated player by, e.g., picking up or dropping off the players in groups. In any case, where an employee, coach, and/or volunteer is involved in the player's local travel, a parental release should be obtained in advance.
- Employees, coaches, and 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 NWCHA or one of its teams to drive alone with an unrelated minor player. However, efforts should be made to minimize these occurrences and to mitigate any circumstances that could lead to allegations of abuse or misconduct.



# TRAVEL POLICY

## Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when NWCHA or one of its team's sponsors coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, nationally, or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, NWCHA will provide reasonable advance notice before the team travels. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within NWCHA or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- NWCHA will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed schedule as well as contact information for any team travel chaperones.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor player (unless the coach is the player's parent, guardian, or sibling).
- The coach will establish a curfew by which all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Each room may be monitored and checked for curfew.
- Individual meetings between a player and coach may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present.
- No coach shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching duties.
- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player and have the minor player stay in their hotel room.
- During team travel, coaches, team personnel, and chaperones will help players, fellow coaches, and team personnel adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy, Locker Room Policy, and Reporting Policy.
- Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules.

## Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

NWCHA prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment, and hazing, all as described in the USA Hockey SafeSport Handbook and [PLAYER & PARENT CONDUCT POLICY](#). Participants, employees, or volunteers in NWCHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these Electronic Communications Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse that violates the USA Hockey SafeSport Policies. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email NWCHA Safe Sport Coordinator Don Hennessy (hennessy1965@comcast.net), NWCHA President Michele Voris (mvoris@nwchargers.org), and/or USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.