



LAKES AREA HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

Travel Policy 2026-2027 Season

The following provisions apply to participation in hockey programming with Lakes Area Hockey Association ("LAHA"), which includes the Boji Mammoths.

LAHA has some teams that travel regularly to play individual games, two or three games at a time, or in tournaments, has 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. LAHA 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.

We distinguish between travel to training, practice and local games or practices at Lakes Ice Arena ("local travel"), and team travel involving coordinated travel ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when LAHA 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. Players may transport themselves 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 LAHA or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, 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. In such circumstances, the minor player's parent/guardian must complete a Specific Instance Consent to Transport by Adult Participation form and submit it to the SafeSport Coordinator prior to travel.
- 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 are 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 LAHA 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. In such circumstances, the minor's player's parent/guardian must complete a Specific Instance Consent to Transport by Adult Participation form and submit it to the SafeSport Coordinator prior to travel.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when LAHA or one of its teams sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete locally, regionally, nationally or internationally at any facility other than Lakes Ice Arena. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, LAHA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within LAHA or the team.
- LAHA will post specific travel itineraries when they become available. These will include a more detailed schedule as well as contact information for team travel chaperones. LAHA will make efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones. If a team is composed of both male and female players, chaperones of both genders will be present.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players. No employee, 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, a vehicle in safe working order, and compliance with all state laws. All chaperones shall complete applicable SafeSport Training and shall have been screened in compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy, and all team drivers shall have been screened, with the screen including a check of appropriate Department of Motor Vehicle records.
- In all instances where team travel includes multiple players traveling by bus or van includes multiple players traveling without a parent or guardian present, each bus or van must include at least one Adult Participant who has satisfied USA Hockey's background screening requirements and completed all applicable SafeSport training prior to travel. If players of both genders are traveling on the same bus or van, at least one qualified Adult Participant of each gender must be present. Each such Adult Participant must adhere to all SafeSport Program policies, including the One-on-One Interactions Policy, as well as all other USA Hockey policies.
- Minor players will share hotel rooms or other sleeping arrangements only with other minor players of the same gender, with the appropriate number of players assigned per room depending on the accommodations available.
- The coach will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two SafeSport Trained and properly screened adults.
- One-on-one meetings between a single coach and a single player are strongly discouraged and should occur only in exceptional circumstances. Whenever possible, meetings between a coach and a player should include an additional coach or adult. One-on-one meetings must never occur in hotel sleeping rooms or other private spaces.
- All players will 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.

- The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
- Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, but the team may reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize. Even in public areas, private or secluded one-on-one interaction between a coach and a minor player is strongly discouraged and should be avoided. Any necessary conversation in a public space should be conducted openly, in view of others, and within earshot of other adults whenever practicable. The team may reserve a separate, open space for adults and athletes to socialize as a group.
- If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken or immediately after the action.
- 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 minor player and have the minor player stay in their hotel room.
- Players will never transport themselves for team travel.
- 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. Coaches will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the players for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

LAHA 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, employees or volunteers in LAHA 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. Reports of any actual or suspected violations, you may email or call LAHA safe sport coordinator. Contact information available on the LAHA website: <https://www.lakesareahockey.com/staff-and-coordinators>.

If it is not included in the aforementioned guidelines and policies, we as LAHA will always adhere to USA Hockey Guidelines.