



Houston Junior Aeros Hockey Association, Inc.

Travel Policy

The Houston Junior Aeros Hockey Association, Inc. (the “Junior Aeros”) has teams that travel regularly to play individual games; two, three or more games at a time; or in tournaments. The Junior Aeros has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions, and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to this Policy will increase player safety and improve the players’ experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

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

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when the Junior Aeros 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 the Junior Aeros 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.
- 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, for 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 own player first and drop off their own 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 the Junior Aeros 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.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when the Junior Aeros or one of its teams sponsors, coordinates, or arranges for travel so that our teams can compete in-State, regionally, nationally, or internationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers, and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, a Junior Aeros team representative 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 the Junior Aeros or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- A Junior Aeros team representative 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. A Junior Aeros team representative will make efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones. A Junior Aeros team representative will make efforts so that there is at least one coach or adult chaperone for each five to eight players. If a team is composed of both male and female players, then we will attempt to arrange chaperones of the both genders. However, we rely on parents to serve as chaperones and may be limited in providing this match.
- 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 have been screened in compliance with the USA Hockey Screening Policy. A parent that has not been screened may participate in team activities and assist with supervision/monitoring of the players, but will not be permitted to have any one-on-one interactions with players.

- Players should share rooms with other players of the same gender and with the appropriate number of players assigned per room depending on accommodations.
- The coach will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly screened adults.
- 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 and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present.
- 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.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted to do so.
- 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.
- 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.
- During team travel, coaches, team personnel, and chaperones will help players, fellow coaches, and team personnel adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, this Policy and the Junior Aeros's Locker Room Policy, Anti-Weapons Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, and Social Media, Mobile, and Electronic Communications 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

The Junior Aeros 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 the Junior Aeros 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.

Reporting

Reports of any actual or suspected infractions or violations of this Policy may be reported to the **Junior Aeros SafeSport Representative** as set forth on the Junior Aeros's website or to **USA Hockey** at **SafeSport@usahockey.org** or **1-800-888-4656**.