



LITTLETON HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
Littleton Hawks and Colorado 14ers

SafeSport Travel Policy
2023-2024 Season

Littleton Hockey Association (“LHA”) recognizes the importance of travel for competitive hockey teams. LHA has teams that travel regularly to play individual games, two or three games at a time, or in tournaments, has teams where travel is limited to only a few events per year, and has some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own arena. LHA has established additional SafeSport 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.

LHA distinguishes between general travel to training, practices and games (“player travel”), and team travel involving a coordinated overnight stay (“team travel”).

Player Travel

Player travel occurs when LHA does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for a player’s travel to or from training, practices or games. Player travel occurs where travel arrangements are made on an individual basis and/or players are not required to travel as a team. Player travel includes “stay-to-play” hotel accommodations, where players are required to stay at a particular hotel as a condition of a team’s participation in a tournament or other event but where specific accommodations are made on an individual basis and not by LHA.

Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements for player travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators are not responsible for arranging or coordinating player 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.

Provisions with respect to player travel are as follows:

- The employees, coaches, and/or volunteers of LHA 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 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.
- 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 LHA 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 travel that occurs when LHA sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel. Team travel occurs where travel arrangements are made by LHA on behalf of all or a majority of a team and/or where players are generally required to travel as a team. Team travel will generally only apply to 14U, 15U, 16U and 18U Tier II teams. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, LHA travel teams will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include specific travel itineraries, designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a designated contact person within the team, typically the team manager.
- LHA will provide adequate supervision of players through coaches and other adult chaperones. LHA 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 LHA will attempt to arrange chaperones of both genders.
- All coaches and 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 any unrelated player.
- All team drivers shall have been screened, and shall have valid drivers' licenses, automobile liability insurance as required by applicable state law, and a vehicle in safe working order. All team drivers shall remain in compliance with applicable state laws.
- Coaches, chaperones and team drivers should not drive or transport players alone, unless an emergency need exists.
- All sleeping arrangements will be determined by a coach.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with a player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Players should share rooms with other players of the same gender, with the appropriate number of players assigned per room depending on accommodations.

- Players involved in a romantic relationship shall not share a hotel room or sleeping arrangements with each other.
- 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 one properly screened adult.
- Players shall have access to their parents without permission of the coach, but such access must be within the parameters of curfew times. Visits with parents outside of curfew times must be approved by a coach prior to curfew breach.
- 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.
- 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. If a meeting inadvertently begins in private, the meeting should be moved to an open and observable location.
- Drugs, alcohol and other illegal substances are not permitted in players' rooms.
- Pornographic material is not allowed among players or in players' rooms during team travel.
- Roommates will shower alone and will allow for privacy of others when changing.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted to do so.
- Guests, other than teammates or parents, are not allowed in players' rooms.
- Except where immediate action is necessary, if disciplinary action against a player is required during team travel, parents will be notified before or immediately after any action is taken; provided, however, this provision will not apply to disciplinary action that only involves playing time during a game.
- 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 team travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player and have the minor player stay in their hotel room.
- Prior to any team 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

LHA 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 LHA may be subject to disciplinary action for violation of these SafeSport Travel Policies or for engaging in any misconduct or abuse or that violates USA Hockey SafeSport Policies.

Additional SafeSport and Member Handbook Provisions

The LHA Member Handbook and LHA SafeSport Handbook contain additional provisions governing Member participation in LHA hockey programming. The provisions of the LHA Member Handbook, the LHA SafeSport Handbook, and other applicable LHA Policies are included in this SafeSport Travel Policy by reference. The LHA Member Handbook, the LHA SafeSport Handbook, and other LHA policy documentation may be amended from time to time by LHA.

Acknowledgment

By registering online, I certify that I have read and understand this SafeSport Travel Policy, and that I agree to abide by all procedures and policies set forth by LHA.