

# USAV SafeSport Policy: Team Travel



## Travel Policy for Sporting MKE Volleyball Club

Sporting MKE Volleyball Club has some teams that travel regularly to play in tournaments, has some teams where travel is limited to a few events per season, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own area. Sporting MKE prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing, all as described in the USA Volleyball SafeSport Handbook. Sporting MKE 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 tournaments ("local travel") and team travel involving an overnight stay ("team travel").

### **Local Travel**

Local travel occurs when Sporting MKE does not sponsor, coordinate or arrange for travel.

- Players and/or their parents/guardian 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 Sporting MKE or one of its teams, who are not also acting as a parent, should not drive alone with an unrelated minor player.

### **Team Travel**

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

- When possible, Sporting MKE will provide reasonable advanced notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within Sporting MKE or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.

- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- Individual meetings between a coach and a player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present.
- Family members who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted and encouraged 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.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.
- In all cases involving travel, parents have the right to transport their minor player.
- 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.
- 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.

### **Additional Policies**

- Players are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Players are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, restaurant or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc., players will stay in groups of no less than three persons. Athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone.
- Safety Policies
  - Additional guidelines to be established as needed by the coaches;
  - Respect the privacy of each other

- Behavior Policies
  - Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in the hotel
  - Be prompt and on time
  - Use appropriate behavior in public facilities, including language
  
- Financial
  - Players are responsible for all incidental charges
  - Players are responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel

## **Code of Conduct**

- a. Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrator, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- b. Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- c. The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- d. The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.
- e. Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and Sporting MKE Volleyball Club. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.

Failure to comply with the Code of Conduct as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline by include, but may not be limited to:

- i. Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;
- ii. Disqualification from future tournaments, either local or traveling;
- iii. Financial penalties;
- iv. Dismissal from team; and/or
- v. Penalties set forth in the USA Volleyball Participant Code of Conduct, which may include a lifetime ban.