

Missoula Area Youth Hockey Association Travel Policy

Missoula Area Youth Hockey Association (MAYHA) 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.

MAYHA 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 regular travel ("regular travel"), and team travel involving an overnight stay coordinated and chaperoned by MAYHA ("team travel").

1. Regular Travel

- a. Regular travel occurs when MAYHA or one of its teams does not sponsor, coordinate, chaperone or arrange for travel. This includes, but is not limited to, regularly scheduled league games.
- b. Players and/or their parents/guardians are responsible for making all arrangements for regular travel. The team and its coaches, managers or administrators should avoid responsibility for arranging or coordinating regular 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.
- c. The employees, coaches, and/or volunteers of MAYHA 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.
- d. Where an employee, coach and/or volunteer is involved in an unrelated minor player's regular 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 regular travel, a parental release should be obtained in advance.
- e. It is recognized that in some limited instances it will be unavoidable for an employee, coach or volunteer of MAYHA 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.
- f. All players 18 years of age and younger must be accompanied on all regular travel by a parent or guardian. No player 18 years or younger can transport themselves to games that

involve regular travel, unless permission is obtained from the Youth Hockey Director and that player's coach.

2. Team Travel

- a. Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when MAYHA, or one of its teams or 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.
- b. When possible, MAYHA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated and required team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within MAYHA or the team.
- c. MAYHA 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.
- d. MAYHA will make efforts to provide adequate supervision through coaches and other adult chaperones. 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.
- e. 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).
- f. 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 and all team drivers shall have been screened and the screen shall include a check of appropriate Department of Motor Vehicle records. 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.
- g. Players should share rooms with other players of the same gender, with the appropriate number of players assigned per room depending on accommodations.
- h. 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.

- i. 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. Meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, but the team may reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.
- j. No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.

3. Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

MAYHA 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 MAYHA 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 USA Hockey at SafeSport@usahockey.org or may call 1-800-888-4656.