

# USA Gymnastics SAFE SPORT POLICY

## TRAVEL

The USA Gymnastics Travel Policy is divided into two parts. Part one outlines the requirements for travel sponsored by a Member Club or USA Gymnastics. Part two outlines one-on-one travel between an Adult Participant and Minor Athlete.

### PART 1

#### Travel and Lodging Sponsored by Member Club or USA Gymnastics

The USA Gymnastics Travel Policy exists for the safety of all participants engaged in local and overnight travel such as practice, camps and competitions. The following are the requirements for travel with Minor Athletes sponsored by a Member Club or USA Gymnastics effective November 1, 2021:

1. Observable and Interruptible at all times
2. The Adult Participant is accompanied by another Adult Participant or at least two minors. (Rule of Three)
3. Written consent is obtained from a parent/guardian annually for all transportation sanctioned by the Member Club or USA Gymnastics. Consent must be kept on file with the sponsoring organization.
4. Adult Participants who have Authority Over Minor Athletes must have taken U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Course and passed a background check consistent with USA Gymnastics background check policy.
5. USA Gymnastics' Travel and Lodging policy must be provided to and signed by all Participants at least annually.

**Authority Over** is defined as one person's position over another person is such that they have the power or right to direct, control, give orders to, or make decisions for that person. For a complete list of personnel identified as having "Authority Over," please see Appendix A of the Safe Sport Policy.

#### REQUIREMENTS TO TRANSPORT MINOR ATHLETES

Observable and Interruptible at all times

Rule of Three

Parent must give written consent annually

U110 and Background Check

Adult Participant must sign Travel Policy Annually



USA GYMNASTICS.

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## Travel

### PART 2

#### One-on-One Transportation Policy

One-on-one interaction is defined as one Adult Participant and one Minor Athlete.

The following are approved exceptions for one-on-one travel between one Adult Participant and one Minor Athlete:

1. Emergency
2. Dual Relationship – The Adult Participant has an existing relationship with Minor Athlete outside of the gymnastics program prior to the start of the coach/athlete relationship.
3. Close-in-Age – The Adult Participant has no Authority over the Minor Athlete and is not more than 4 years older than the Minor Athlete.
4. Personal Care Assistant – The Adult Participant is a Personal Care Assistant and has met all the requirements as outlined in the policy.

A Member Club or sponsoring organization may allow for deviation from the USA Gymnastics Safe Sport Policy for the limited purpose of airline travel or local travel with parental consent. The organization exercising this option must:

1. Indemnify USA Gymnastics from all liability, and must execute the [Indemnification Form](#).
2. Parents or legal guardians, the authorized agent for the club, and the unrelated adult must sign the written consent [form](#); the original is kept on file with the member club; and a copy is submitted to USA Gymnastics.
3. Parents and Minor Athletes involved must take the [U.S. Center for SafeSport's course on Recognizing and Responding to Signs of Abuse](#). This course is available at the U.S. Center for SafeSport. The course only needs to be taken one time for the parental course and one time per Minor Athlete or as they move between age groups: Preschool, K-2, 3-5, Middle School and High School.
4. Submit all forms and certificates to [Safesportpolicy@usagym.org](mailto:Safesportpolicy@usagym.org).

*\*Consent and Indemnification forms only need to be completed annually.*

USA Gymnastics will not grant or deny permission to travel in violation of the one-on-one policy. The receipt by USA Gymnastics of parental consent forms, trip itineraries or indemnification documents does NOT imply or indicate permission by USAG for the travel to occur.

### QUICK GUIDE FOR ONE-ON-ONE TRAVEL

Club approves travel

Parent approves travel itinerary

Club signs indemnification

Parents sign consent before each instance of overnight travel

Parent completes "Parent's Guide to Misconduct" by the U.S. Center for SafeSport (1x)

Athlete completes age appropriate SafeSport course for athletes (1x per age group)

Indemnification, Parental Consent & Course certificates submitted to [safesportpolicy@usagym.org](mailto:safesportpolicy@usagym.org)

# USA GYMNASTICS SAFE SPORT POLICY

## Travel – Common Questions

**1.** If a coach and a Minor Athlete are travelling to a competition where the minor's parents will not be in attendance, is this considered one-on-one if the coach and minor travel separately to and from the airport?

**A:** It depends. If the coach has been granted authority over the Minor Athlete to coach, direct their movements or is responsible for their overall wellbeing during any portion of the trip while the Minor Athlete's parents are not present, then this meets the threshold for one-on-one travel. The parents must give written consent and follow the USA Gymnastics One-on-One Transportation Policy.

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**2.** If a Minor Athlete travels alone to a competition, but is on the same plane with another coach who is not the Minor Athletes personal coach, does this meet the threshold for one-on-one travel?

**A:** No. If the coach has not been given a position of authority over that Minor Athlete, then it is not considered one-on-one as long as both parties remain in an observable environment. However, the coach is still considered an Adult Participant and must remain observable and interruptible with the Minor Athlete at all times.

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**3.** If a Minor Athlete is travelling with another Minor Athlete and one coach, is this considered one-on-one?

**A:** No. It is not considered one-on-one if a coach is travelling with two athletes or two coaches are travelling with one minor athlete. This is considered the "Rule of Three." Even though the travel doesn't meet the one-on-one requirements, the parents of the Minor Athletes must give written consent for the travel to occur at least annually.

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**4.** Can a parent/guardian give verbal consent for an Adult Participant to transport their Minor Athlete one-on-one the day before a competition?

**A:** No. Written consent is required for all one-on-one travel and all documentation must be forwarded to USA Gymnastics before the travel.

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**5.** If an Adult Participant (a coach or club owner) is traveling with their child (Minor Athlete), can they also transport unrelated Minor Athletes at the same time?

**A:** Yes. As long as the Adult Participant has at least two minors or another Adult Participant, they can transport Minor Athletes. The parents of the unrelated Minor Athlete(s) must give written consent for the travel to occur at least annually if the travel is sponsored by the Member Club.

**6.** If an organization such as a Member Club or USA Gymnastics organizes travel and assigns a parent whose child is attending the event to chaperone other Minor Athletes, does that parent have to take U110: SafeSport Core Course and pass a background check?

**A:** Yes. The parent in this case is considered an Adult Participant, because of their assigned responsibilities to supervise Minor Athletes.

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**7.** A parent of a Minor Athlete volunteers to take their daughter and three other Minor Athletes to a competition out of state. This travel is organized by the parents of the minors. Is that parent considered an Adult Participant who needs to take U110: U.S. Center for SafeSport Core Course and pass a background check?

**A:** No. The parent would not be considered an Adult Participant, because they are working with other parents to arrange the travel and not the Member Club or USA Gymnastics.

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**8.** Can an Adult Athlete who is 20 years of age stay overnight with Minor Athletes between the ages of 14-16 in a shared hotel room, if they do not have any granted authority over the Minor Athletes?

**A:** No. Because of the age range, the lodging arrangement would not be acceptable. The 20-year-old is not within the "Close-in-Age Exception," where the Adult Athlete must be within four years of the youngest Minor.

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**9.** Can an Adult Athlete who does not meet the "Close-in-Age Exception" (4-years older than a Minor Athlete) stay overnight with Minor Athletes if the rule of three is in effect.

**A:** No. An Adult Athlete that does not meet the Close-in-Age exception may not stay overnight with Minor Athletes.

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**10.** When a Minor Athlete stays in the same hotel room with an Adult Athlete, does the parent have to give written consent?

**A:** Parent/guardian consent must be obtained in advance for any lodging arrangement where a Minor Athlete shares a room with an Adult Participant who meets the Close-In-Age Exception.