



USA Climbing Team Travel Policy (Minor Athletes)

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear guidance to USA Climbing's High Performance Staff and reassurance to the parents and guardians of Minor Athletes regarding USA Climbing's approach to team travel. This policy ensures compliance with the [U.S. Center for SafeSport's Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies \(MAAPP\)](#) and reinforces USA Climbing's commitment to athlete safety.

This policy must be reviewed and signed annually by all Minor Athletes and their parent or guardian.

Definitions

Minor Athlete

A Minor Athlete is a Recreational, Competitor, Paraclimbing, or Collegiate Member under 18 years of age who participates in—or participated within the previous 12 months in—an event, program, activity, or competition that is a part of, or partially or fully under the jurisdiction of USA Climbing.

In-Program Contact

Any contact (including communication, interaction, or activity) between an Adult Participant and a Minor Athlete related to participation in sport. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Competitions
- Practices
- Training camps or clinics
- Instructional sessions
- Pre/post-competition meals or outings
- Team travel
- Film review
- Award ceremonies or team celebrations

- Fundraising or service events
- Sport education or site visits

All one-on-one In-Program Contact must be observable and interruptible, unless in emergency situations or under a documented exception.

Close-in-Age Exception (CIA)

An exception that may apply when the Adult Participant is not more than four (4) years older than the Minor Athlete (by date of birth) and has no authority over them. This applies only to [MAAPP](#) prevention policies—not to behavior defined in the SafeSport Code.

Policy Areas

1. Curfew

- During In-Program Contact, Minor Athletes must adhere to an 11:00 PM curfew, unless accompanied by a parent or High Performance Staff and delayed by unforeseen circumstances (e.g., extended competition or travel).
- Random room checks may be conducted by two High Performance Staff or designated chaperones.
- Repeated curfew violations may result in the athlete being sent home at their own expense.

2. Lodging and Accommodations

- Lodging may be arranged by USA Climbing and must comply with the [MAAPP](#) Lodging and Residential Environments policy.
- CIA must be met for shared accommodations. If not possible, the Minor Athlete will be placed in a private room; if housed in a group rental (e.g., Airbnb), the room must be lockable.
- For funded competition starts, families choosing to house the athlete separately may submit a reimbursement request of up to 50% per night (based on the team hotel rate or actual cost—whichever is lower).
- For **unfunded starts**, families are fully responsible for arranging and funding accommodations.

3. U.S. Team Transportation

- The High Performance Staff will provide a transportation plan in advance (arrival, departure, and onsite transport).
- If not traveling with the team, the Minor Athlete must meet staff at a designated destination.

- Parents may choose alternate travel options for their athlete. Once In-Program Contact begins, the athlete must be accompanied by an Adult Participant in an observable and interruptible manner.
- If transportation includes an Adult Participant, it must comply with [MAAPP](#) transportation policies.
- Any separately arranged transportation (e.g., walking to venues) must be communicated in writing to the High Performance Staff.

4. U.S. Team Dinners

- All registered U.S. Team athletes are invited to designated team dinners.
- If a parent/guardian does not allow participation, meals are not reimbursable unless pre-approved by the High Performance Staff.

5. U.S. Team Training

- Between competitions, Minor Athletes may travel with the High Performance Staff, their parent/guardian, or another adult (e.g., a teammate's parent) as arranged by the family.
- If travel involves an Adult Participant, it must comply with [MAAPP's](#) transportation provisions.
- If not traveling with the High Performance Staff, families are responsible for related travel costs.

6. Communication

6.1 Parent Communication

- A parent WhatsApp group will be created for each competition to communicate team plans and movements.

6.2 Coach–Athlete Messaging

- High Performance Staff must copy a parent/guardian or chaperone on any direct messages with Minor Athletes.

6.3 Coach–Athlete Phone Calls

- Phone calls from a Minor Athlete to staff while abroad will be treated as emergencies and answered.
- Athletes should only call for a specific issue. Calls will be answered on speakerphone, kept open and transparent, and documented.

6.4 Coach–Athlete Debriefs

- All scheduled coach–athlete debriefs will be conducted in an observable and interruptible setting.

7. Whereabouts

- Minor Athletes must inform High Performance Staff of changes to their location and comply with staff instructions.
- If a parent/guardian assumes custody of the athlete during an event, this must be communicated to staff.

Acknowledgment

This policy must be reviewed and signed annually by the athlete and their parent/guardian.

Participant Name _____ Participant Signature _____

Participant Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Parent or Guardian Signature _____