



## TEAM TRAVEL POLICY FOR MINORS

### PURPOSE

Minor Athletes are most vulnerable to misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a high risk of athlete-to-athlete misconduct. During travel, athletes are often away from their families and support networks, and the setting – automobiles and hotel rooms – is less structured and less familiar.

Team Travel is defined as overnight travel to an equestrian competition or other team activity that is planned and supervised by the Federation. Team Staff is defined as all individuals appointed or authorized by the Federation to support the team including but not limited to Federation staff, coaches, chef d'equipes, selectors, veterinarians, human and equine sport medicine personnel, and chaperones. Minor athletes is defined as any individual under the age of 18.

The Federation is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for all and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free from misconduct. The Federation has established this Travel Policy for Minors to establish clear boundaries, minimize one-on-one interactions, and protect the welfare of our minor athletes, parents, coaches, and staff during Team Travel.

### POLICY

- Team Staff must have successfully passed a criminal background check and Safe Sport Training, in accordance with the Federation's Safe Sport Policy and the Safe Sport Code.
- Regardless of gender, Team Staff shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete, unless the Team Staff is the parent, guardian, or sibling of that particular athlete.
- One-on-one interactions between a minor athlete and an adult must be avoiding, barring emergency circumstances.
- During Team Travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings, and/or other activities, two-deep leadership and open and observable environments shall be maintained.
  - During Team Travel, Team Staff and athletes shall travel in automobiles with at least two-deep leadership and/or parent or legal guardian. In extraordinary circumstances and with permission of Team Staff and the parent or legal guardian, alternative plans may be put in place for short travel only (i.e. venue to/from accommodations). In extraordinary circumstances, advanced written authorization must be obtained from the parent or legal guardian.
  - During overnight Team Travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes they shall be of the same gender and should be a similar age. Where athletes are age 13 & over, Team Staff would ideally stay in nearby rooms.
- To ensure athlete safety, male athletes are prohibited from entering female athlete's rooms and female athletes are prohibited from entering male athlete's rooms.
- Each athlete and parent or legal guardian of minor athletes shall sign a Liability Release and/or Indemnification Form before the athletes are permitted to travel with the Team.
- Curfews shall be established by Team Staff each day of the trip.
- Team members are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Team members are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, a restaurant, or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of Team Staff.
- Team Staff shall make a written report of travel policy or code of conduct violations to the Federation and the parent or legal guardian of any affected minor athlete.
- The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- The possession, use, or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon by any athlete is strictly forbidden.