



A portion of IGHHA participation involves overnight travel for youth teams to games and tournaments. Minor players are most vulnerable to abuse or misconduct during travel, particularly overnight stays. This includes a greater risk of player to player misconduct. During travel, players may be away from their families and support networks, and the setting – unfamiliar locker rooms, automobiles, and hotel rooms – is less structured and less familiar. A travel policy provides guidelines so that care is taken to minimize one-on-one interactions between minors and adults while traveling. Further, the policy directs how minor players will be supervised between and during travel to and from practice and games. Adherence to travel policies helps to reduce the opportunities for misconduct.

USA Hockey requires that all local programs have travel policies applicable to their youth teams and to provide the policies to all players, parents, coaches and other adults that are travelling with the team.

Inver Grove Heights Hockey Association's (IGHHA) Travel Policy

IGHHA has teams that travel to play individual games, two or three games at a time, or in tournaments, have 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. IGHHA 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 games ("local travel"), and team travel involving an overnight stay ("team travel").

Local Travel

Local travel occurs when IGHHA or one of its teams does not sponsor, coordinate, or arrange for travel.

Players and/or their parents/guardians 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 coaches, and/or volunteers of IGHHA 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.

Where a coach and/or volunteer is involved in an unrelated minor player's local 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 a coach and/or volunteer are involved in the player's local travel, a parental release should be obtained in advance.

Coaches, and volunteers who are also a player's parent or guardian may provide shared transportation for any player(s) if they pick up their player first and drop off their player last in any shared or carpool travel arrangement.

It is recognized that in some limited instances it will be unavoidable for a coach or volunteer of IGHHA 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.

Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs typically for tournaments so that our teams can compete locally and regionally.

When possible, IGHHA will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within IGHHA 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 arrangement with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player or has written permission from a player's parent or guardian).

If a player's parent or guardian is not able to travel, that parent or guardian will need to make arrangements for their player to travel with and stay with another team family. Written permission from the parent or guardian on who the player will travel and stay with will need to be provided to the team. Written permission can be in the form of email that is sent to the team manager and head coach.

The coach will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location.

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.

No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.

In all cases involving travel, parents are fully responsible for their player's transportation to and from the event.

During team travel, coaches, team personnel and chaperones will help players, fellow coaches and team personnel adhere to policy guidelines, including, without limitation, the Travel Policy, Locker Room Policy and Reporting Policy.

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.

Parent and Player Conduct

It is expected that when teams of IGHHA travel overnight, parents and players will conduct themselves appropriately and not allow unruly, disrespectful behavior. It is expected parents and players will follow and adhere to parent and player code of conduct and be a positive representation of IGHHA.

Prohibited Conduct and Reporting

IGHHA 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 IGHHA 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, please contact the IGHHA SafeSports Coordinator, Jeff Royce at 612.490.8473 or ighhasafesports@gmail.com.

Minnesota Hockey SafeSport Coordinator;

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