



"Knowing it takes more than just hard work."

Blast Travel Responsibilities and Expectations

Whether we are traveling outside our area to find better competition or if we are traveling to take part in road travel as a way to build together as a group, Blast trips are unlike trips other clubs put together.

The primary goal for traveling is to play against different, more skilled competition. It may be during winter months to be well prepared for State Cup and Club Cups, or, it may be during season to use a travel trip as a mile-marker for progress and a way to be seen by college coaches. Either way, when we travel, we do it with the club and our teammates as our #1 priority.



Travel Commitment:

Travel is expensive. But, we ask that anyone part of the Blast prioritize our commitment to traveling sometimes well outside of Minnesota to play the best soccer we are capable of playing at that given time, against teams that challenge us at some of the highest levels possible. We need everyone on our teams to be part of these events to have the most success.

With solid commitment from players and families, the value in playing at the highest levels is becoming more cohesive, organized, and focused as a team. Travel often has us operating outside our comfort zones; growing and developing as people - together.

Upholding Everyone's Reputation and Image:

As we travel by car, van, bus or plane, we spend time in hotel lobbies, airports, stores and restaurants, tournament booths, medical tents, grocery stores and at other locations along the way. We expect everyone to be highly respectful, polite and mature. We expect everyone to be proud ambassadors of our club.

As we travel, we will be seen by many different people while wearing our club name on our backs, fronts and sides, 24/7. As we do, we represent more than just ourselves. We represent all our parents, all our member families, all our coaches and each and every one of our teammates. We expect to be a quality group of people, respectful and appreciative of our opportunities.

Here are some general rules for how we handle ourselves on trips and at events:

1. Transportation & Ride Groups

Transportation will be well organized. Whatever the mode of travel, we expect everyone to maintain disciplined and responsible commitment to schedules as well as the clubs reputation and image.

- Behavior expectations do NOT change when traveling by car. You would not be loud or rude on a bus, van or plane. Yes, on occasion, we relax a bit more in a car. But, read the room and be respect the driver and other passengers/teammates.
- Take opportunities when traveling with teammates to get to know them deeper than their efforts on the field. You will be surprised to find the things you have in common. Or, the things you do not have in common that still fosters a friendship.
- When packing, bring only what you need; respect everyones space. Team travel is not a fashion show. No need for special outfits. You will be in team warm-ups, sweatshirts, sweatpants or team t-shirts 99.9% of the time. A need for anything more formal will be communicated ahead of time.
- When leaving your car, van, seat, take care of your trash. Don't leave messes for others to take care of. Even if you see trash that's not yours, pick it up - make it better than what you found it.

2. Moving as a Group,

A mass of players moving through hotels, restaurants and events can make those around us feel over-whelmed. As a group, our priority remains being organized and on the same page to move calmly and methodically while being respectful, mature and great ambassadors of our club.

Things to remember:

- What you say and equally important, "how" you say it in your groups reflects everyones level of respect and maturity. Please chose words and volumes carefully. Select appropriate adjectives that demonstrate respect and maturity.
- Hold doors open, allow smaller groups or individuals to get in ahead of our large group when it makes sense. Be aware of our surroundings; be courteous, be patient. Make someone's day when you can.
- Make it better than when you left. If you see a chair out of place, a wrapper on the ground or see a chance to make something better, do. You can make a positive difference.

3. Schedules & Room Assignments:

We maintain a very organized schedule revolving around players being with teammates 24/7. We always run off a trip itinerary that schedules meals, rests, team events, games, and provides opportunities for players to attend church on the road whenever possible. We make very few adjustments to this schedule and expect everyone to be on time ("Early is on time. On time is late.")

We assign rooms at age 13 and older. Players stay 3-4 to a room. This has always proven to be a memorable and fun part of every trip. Room leaders are assigned to make sure schedules are followed, phones are collected and teammates are not alone.

4. Technology/Communications Rules:

First, any phone time is limited to certain times of the day. But, when we do have our phones on a trip, we would anticipate people taking photos to document our trips and memory, forever. But, we also have to be aware that not everyone likes their photo taken and for sure, not everyone wants their image posted publicly. So, whenever on a Blast trip, we will ask that we have the following rules for posting any teammates photo:

- Get a players approval before posting anything online or sending out in any way. Simply show them the photo, get them to agree and let them know you're putting it up. NEVER post anything you have not had permission to post.
- We do not post ANYTHING inappropriate online ever. This is for your safety and for the safety of everyone on the team.
- We immediately pull down anything posted that a parent, coach or teammate does not approve. We have a small but growing number of people outside the club keeping an eye on "anything Blast" social media. Please keep us from hearing from them.

5. Big Picture:

Our trips are a privilege made possible by our parents and our support systems. These events are not only an investment of everyone's time and expense, but come with great responsibility. Our parents who help us out, getting us from field to field, coordinating events, making food runs, arranging special outings and just being there to support us are making a commitment to our experience as well. Thank them, appreciate their efforts. A simple thank you is sometimes all it takes for someone to know you understand and appreciate the efforts being made.

This is all part of high level athletics. The Blast has set a mark here and has found success in not only what we do, but how we do it. Keep the Blast travel tradition positive, successful and a whole lot of fun!