



Athlete Supervision, Housing and Travel Best Practice Guidelines for U-18 athletes*

1. All USSA club practices, projects should be open to observation by parents.
2. All coaches supervising USSA athletes must be members of USSA and criminally background screened.
3. One coach member and at least one other adult should be present at all practices and other club activities where at least one athlete is present. Clubs and coaches should evaluate their seasonal plans and decide in advance how to accomplish this goal.
4. An open and observable environment should be maintained for all interactions between adults and athletes. Private, or one-on-one sessions should be avoided unless they are observable, e.g. in a conference room with glass walls or a room with the door open.
5. Coaches should not invite or have athletes to their home without the permission of the parent or guardian and in the instances that permission is given, #3 should be observed.
6. Schedule overnight travel as far in advance as practical and share itinerary and contact information of lodging, coaches and athletes with athletes and parents.
7. During team travel, when doing room checks, attending team meetings or other activities, #3 and #4 should be maintained.
8. Athletes should not ride in a coach's vehicle unless another athlete or coach is present. If that cannot be accomplished, parental consent must be obtained.
9. Coaches must ensure their vehicles are properly insured.
10. During overnight team travel, if athletes are paired with other athletes, those athletes shall be of the same gender and of similar age. Where athletes are age 13 or older, chaperones shall stay in nearby rooms. Where athletes are 12 or under, chaperones may stay in the same accommodations as the athletes as long as parental permission is obtained. In that circumstance, #3 shall also be observed.
11. Adults shall respect the privacy of athletes in situations such as changing clothes/showering, etc.
12. The use of electronic devices such as cell phones, MP3 players and other recording devices in locker rooms/changing areas is prohibited.
13. If the team is composed of athletes of both sexes, each sex shall be accorded a separate changing area or given serial use of the one available changing area.
14. Coaches should not initiate contact, or accept supervisory responsibility for athletes outside club programs and activities.
15. During overnight team travel, there shall be a curfew imposed and monitored by USSA member coaches.
16. Violation of the curfew for anything other than a demonstrable emergency shall be grounds for immediate removal from the project.
17. Coaches should be the first to arrive at a project and the last to leave.

*These guidelines, while specific to u-18 (minor) athletes, can be adapted for use by those projects involving athletes over 18 in the discretion of the project leader.