

COLORADO STORM TRAVEL POLICY

Colorado Storm Soccer Association is committed to the development and success of its players. Team travel is designed to help players achieve success as well as experience opportunity for growth and development. Players given the opportunity to travel through Colorado Storm must agree to meet all behavioral guidelines while traveling under the supervision of Storm coaches and parent chaperones. We expect all players to exhibit only those qualities which reflect positively on our organization at all times including the following: On the field as well as during group outings and activities, free time, travel periods to and from each destination, and throughout your stay at the tournament or program location.

Players that break this travel agreement will be disciplined appropriately and, if necessary, will be sent home immediately at the expense of the parent by whatever means the coach or chaperones feel necessary. Players that are dismissed and sent home, are not entitled to receive any reimbursement of program or tournament fees. Players that choose not to attend the program or tournament are responsible for all expenses as a team. This may include, but are not limited to, the following: coach's expenses, tournament fees, team vans or cars, room expenses and any other team expenses.

Preparing for a Travel Tournament

It is common, but not mandatory, for the team to have a Travel Coordinator who will handle all aspects of team travel, such as flight selection and reservations, hotel reservations, car rentals, meal planning, necessary paperwork, and to generally assist the Team Administrator in travel planning. Whoever handles these tasks should begin work on them ASAP after an application has been submitted. Before committing to any contracts (for airfare or hotels, etc.), it must be certain that the team has been accepted into the tournament, or that the likelihood of acceptance is very great.

Competitive teams are responsible for all travel expenses of one coach per team to include coach's mileage/air fare, hotel room, and meals. In the case that two teams have the same coach, and are travelling to the same tournament, those team administrators/travel coordinators should work together to ensure that travel arrangements are made in the most cost-effective manner. For teams outside of ECNL and DA, when a single team coach is able to coach two teams at the same tournament (and a second coach is not needed), then the two teams may split the coach's travel expenses.

The team will cover the travel costs, flight and hotel, for chaperones.

A team is not responsible for paying for an assistant coach. Teams are allowed to cover the cost of an assistant coach, but this is not required. The head coach may not insist that the assistant coach have their travel paid for. This is at the discretion of the team.

The Team Administrator should keep the team updated regarding all aspects of the tournament plans from start to finish. The Team Treasurer should assist with collecting appropriate fees, airline deposits and balances, etc. All anticipated fees must be collected prior to traveling.

All players on the original team roster are responsible for paying tournament fees. Expenses related to travel should be paid by traveling players. **Note: Any player who commits to a tournament, and for whom an airline ticket, or other non-refundable fees are paid (including coach's travel fees), is responsible to pay for those expenses, even if the player does not attend** (unless the coach can find a guest player). When a guest player is utilized, he/she is responsible to pay for travel expenses – such as airline tickets, rental cars, hotel, groceries, meals, and coach's travel fees.

In addition, a team meeting should be held with all parents and players to discuss coach expectations, coach rules for travel, representation of Storm, etc. There should be ample opportunity for all questions to be asked and answered.

Travel Arrangements

A team itinerary should be provided to families before the trip with all of the flight, hotel and tournament information

All players are expected to travel to games together. Any exceptions to traveling with the team will be up to the head coach and **MUST** be pre-approved.

Driving to the Tournament:

If a tournament is within an acceptable driving distance, the Coach may approve that the players travel with families to get there. The Coach will name a meeting time and location where all players will meet to come together with the chaperones and coach as a team. At the end of the tournament, the coach will designate when the players will be released from the team. Every player must be released by a supervising adult from the Coach and chaperones at the end of the tournament.

Per Diem and mileage for the coach (for trips that don't involve travel by air) will be paid in the amount agreed upon in the coaches contract signed by the team, coach and club.

Travel by Air:

Storm's philosophy regarding group/team travel by air has always been that, absent extenuating circumstances, competitive teams should travel as a group by air (as appropriate per distance) to tournaments. There are reasons for this philosophy:

- Safety of players
- Level of responsibility placed on chaperones
- Team training and preparation for tournament play
- Logistics and respect for schedule required when dealing with large numbers of children
- Team camaraderie and unity

- Guarantee of group rate with the airlines

In the event that a player can use frequent flyer miles or the benefits of a parent who works for the airlines, the player may seek permission from the Coach to travel individually, assuming the following conditions are satisfied:

- The request is made when the tournament opportunity is first presented to the team.
- The team's ability to obtain a group rate from the airline is not compromised.
- The team has not already purchased a ticket for the player.
- The player, regardless of age, is accompanied to and from the tournament by an adult taking full responsibility for the player.
- That adult takes full responsibility for getting the player to the team at the time and location provided by the Coach or chaperone, and following the tournament, picks the player up when and where the Coach or chaperone indicate.
- The responsibility of the Coach and/or chaperones for the player begins and ends only when he/she is in physical presence of the team. If a player and a family ask to travel separately from the team, the family may be held responsible for payment of a full ticket or penalties associated with retaining the group rate for the rest of the team.
- Players are still responsible for coach's expenses (hotel, rental car, coach's meals, etc.).

If a player needs to leave separate from the team, the player is still responsible for any previously incurred expenses (including rental cars, coach's travel expenses, etc).

Team Travel Attire

The Coach will determine what the whole team will wear when traveling as a group. All players are expected to conform.

Hotel Accommodations

The Travel Coordinator will make all hotel arrangements for the players, Coach and chaperones. He/she will not be responsible for parent arrangements. All players are expected to stay in the team hotel and in the player rooms. Players should be on the same floor with adult supervision.

It is required that all U11 - U13 teams have a parent chaperone stay with no more than three players in a room. If necessary, it is acceptable to have 2 rooms that adjoin to each other so that there is one chaperone and seven players between the two rooms, with the adjoining door remaining open at all times. For U11 teams, the Coach has the discretion, when a majority of the parents have agreed to travel with the team, to determine whether players will room with parents rather than assigning formal chaperones for the trip. For U14 and older teams, the coach may transition to a system in which players

stay in assigned rooms with a room captain and chaperones are assigned to designated chaperone rooms. It is Storm's recommendation that chaperones be of the same gender as the players when chaperones are sharing the room with players. All teams, of any age, must have at least one chaperone that is of the same gender as the team. Each player is responsible for his/her share of the cost of the hotel rooms. In the event that a player has received permission from the Coach to stay in a room outside of the team rooms, the player is responsible to pay his/her share of total hotel costs assessed to all the traveling players.

Teams must take a minimum of 3 chaperones on each trip. The Head Coach of the team has last say in determining chaperones.

All chaperones need to register on the Colorado Storm online system to complete a background check before traveling with the team. Colorado Storm holds the right to decline a chaperone be used based on the results of a background check. To register go to the Colorado Storm Registration website and register as a Coach/Volunteer for the team.

Chaperones for traveling teams will be responsible for overseeing the behavior and care of all players traveling with the team. Chaperones are expected to be with the team at all times unless other arrangements are made. The coach relies on each chaperone to ensure that all players are safe, acting appropriately and supervised at all times. Refer to the Chaperone Acknowledgement form in the handbook for more detailed responsibilities.

Rental Vehicles

The Travel Coordinator will rent vehicles for team use during travel tournaments. Drivers of vehicles rented for the purpose of transporting players will never be in possession of, or consume, alcoholic beverage, federally banned substance, or more specifically marijuana for recreational use. A separate car rental may be necessary for the Coach or coaches at some travel tournaments. Such decisions shall be made by the Coach and Team Administrator. Car rental expenses are the responsibility of all traveling players. Drivers shall accept basic liability and physical damage insurance through the car rental company for every vehicle rented by Storm teams. Drivers/chaperones electing not to purchase rental insurance do so at their own risk, understanding that this relieves the club of all liability and places it solely on the driver.

Generally, chaperones will drive rental vehicles while traveling. In some instances with older teams, there may be drivers who are not chaperones. Coaches generally do not drive rental vehicles to transport the team unless agreed upon.

The rental car cannot have more players in it, than the number of seat belts in the car. Each player must be individually belted at all times.

Philosophy for Team Meal(s)

The team is expected to eat all meals as a group. The Coach is expected to participate in team meals, when possible. When it is not possible for the coach to eat with the team (for example, he/she is scouting another team) then the team shall provide per diem, for the coaches meals, based on GSA. The team Treasurers have templates available for obtaining these rates. The per diem rates are dependent on where the team travels.

It is extremely important that players eat nutritious meals throughout their travel experience and make a conscious effort to keep well hydrated. Allowable food and drinks will be at the coach's discretion. Parents are expected to support the Coach's recommendations.

If your team has two games on a given day, plan ahead for what they will eat between games. It may work best to bring along granola bars, bagels or fruit, etc., to the field and find a shaded area to eat. All meals, especially breakfast, should be planned ahead as much as possible.

Food Expenses

Determine a rough estimate of what all meals will cost and charge each player prior to the tournament so that money is in the team account in advance of the expenditure. For the payment of team meals, if an individual's credit card is used, reimbursement by traveling team members must occur immediately upon return from the trip.

Coaches and chaperones may not consumer any alcohol in the presence of youth.

Conduct

All players, parents and coaches will be held to the Colorado Storm Code of Conduct.

Any situation not covered in the above travel policy will be resolved by the team coach.