

**Colorado Youth Soccer
Risk Management
Tournament Safety Tips**

Summer tournament play is just around the corner. Traveling to unfamiliar locations can bring troubles you do not want to experience. Don't be fooled as In-state tournaments provide the same types of troubles. As players, teams, coaches and parents prepare to play in tournaments the key to having a good time is situational awareness and staying in control of the situation. Here are a few things to consider which might prevent your tournament experience from becoming a tragedy.

Player Personal & Equipment Safety

1. Never list your home address on your player's bag or luggage. Use your club address and telephone number. By looking at a player's bag tag you can match the number with the player, the age of the player by the tournament schedule, home address and telephone number. Don't make it easy for predators.
2. Players should avoid leaving their wallet/purse, camera and/or cell phone in an unattended player bag. This includes match time. It is easy to walk by a team bench and simply pick up a bag and just keep walking. Leave them at home or give them to your parent or another team representative during games or training. Another option is to lock them in the trunk of a car. However, thieves can get into a trunk in a few seconds so trunk/car space isn't a fool proof option but it is better than leaving them unattended. Items left in cars should be hidden from view by a coat, paper or other common item.
3. At away tournaments or while at unfamiliar fields, players should travel in pairs whenever possible when they leave the team to use the restroom or visit merchandise or concession stands. Players and siblings should not wander off on their own.
4. Never flash money in public.

Tournament Hotel Safety

- Only stay in a hotel that uses cards to open room doors. Make sure your room has a peephole and a deadbolt lock. Secure all door locks when retiring for the night and bring along a rubber door stop to put on your side of the door as an extra precaution. Always lock the door when leaving the room.
- Make sure all players understand emergency exit routes in case of the need to evacuate. Make sure each understands elevators are not to be used when smoke or fire is present. Don't expect the player to read the instructions posted on the inside of the door.
- Whenever possible, do not get rooms that have direct access to outside (1st floor or garden level).
- Players are to understand team curfews and prohibitions of having strangers or other than team participants in their rooms.

- Free time should only be permitted at structured, supervised times and locations.

Field Safety

- ✓ Become familiar with field and/or tournament rules regarding weather, game postponements, and medical/emergency response procedures. Tournament procedures should be listed within the Tournament Brochure. Identify where tournament headquarters are located in case of a lost sibling or need to seek assistance.
- ✓ In the event of an emergency, players, teams and families should proceed immediately to a meeting location previously identified.
- ✓ If a cell phone is utilized for medical assistance, make sure you provide specific location information to the operator. Cell phone coverage is obtained by roaming and a call for help might be routed to your “home” location.
- ✓ Make sure players, parents and siblings apply the appropriate level of sun-screen

General Tips

- Discuss with your family what the player, family or chaperone would do in the event of an emergency while away from home, e.g. whom to call.
- Make sure prescription medicines are filled properly and labeled accurately prior to the trip.
- Never wear anything that projects affluence. Gold chains, expensive watches and rings or other paraphernalia should not be easily viewed. Better yet, leave the jewelry at home.
- Minimize the number of credit cards you have when traveling.
- When at the motel, park only in well lit, traveled and viewable areas.

The game of soccer draws thousands to tournament sites each summer weekend. Unfortunately some of those attending are looking for opportunities to further their personal needs via illegal activity. Don't get caught short; protect your player, your family, your team and your tournament experience. Good Luck and Good Soccer over your tournament summer!