



TRAVEL POLICY

October 8, 2025

Storm Travel Policy

The travel policy has been published to provide information to ensure clear and consistent understanding of travel policy and guidelines to the membership; to ensure parents understand fiscal commitment when going on trips; and to ensure that players and coaches are adequately covered from an insurance perspective in event of an accident while on club travel.

Participation in tournaments will depend on coaches and parents interest. Depending on the tournament some players may have to miss school to participate, this is a decision the parents and player will have to make. Players and their families pay their own way to tournaments as they are not mandatory. Coaches and Chaperones will accompany players on away trips. For the parents of our younger U12 players, parents will need to travel with their players and have them stay in the parent's hotel room for ALL tournaments.

Letters of authorization for travel internationally will be provided to all parents for completion prior to any trips outside of Canada. All Pacific Storm athletes travelling outside of Canada need to have a valid passport.

Please note – players' accounts must be up to date to be considered "in good standing" to attend tournaments. Any accounts in arrears must be brought to a level of good standing prior to tournament registration for your child to attend.

Team Policy

To promote unity and to emphasize the need to focus on competition and minimize distraction when a tournament has been designated as **"team travel"**:

- All athletes, except for U12, are expected to travel together as a team. This helps to unify the team and to ensure that if there are any schedule changes or last-minute meetings, the athletes will be readily available.
- All players will wear the team uniform when travelling
- All players will stay at the same hotel. Players will room with designated roommates as assigned by the coaches after discussion with the chaperones.
- Players will eat meals and travel to and from the pool as a team. While there will be occasions when the team will have free time, it will be at the coaches' discretion and

activities will be conducted as a team. If parents attend the tournament they should not plan on eating with their children or taking them on excursions.

- Travel plans including flights, hotels and ground transportation are made by the Travel Coordinator in consultation with the Team Managers and Coaches for the best interests of the team and consider multiple and sometimes conflicting factors such as reducing costs, minimizing school missed, convenience for travelers and parents, and travel times.

Conduct

Athletes are expected to behave appropriately at tournaments and follow the rules laid out by the Coach and chaperones. All players must adhere to the player code of conduct (signed at registration) to participate and travel with the team. Violations of this code may result in the player being sent home at the parents' expense.

Budget

Pacific Storm Executive and travel planners work very hard to keep the costs associated with travel to a minimum. The Registrar and Travel Coordinator will establish a budget for each trip in advance of a tournament and advise the Team Managers. The budget amount calculated considers the estimated number of attendees which is then divided into the total estimated trip costs. The following items are considered when arriving at the cost of the trip:

- tournament fees
- airfares & hotel costs for players, coaches and chaperones
- vehicle rentals, gas and insurance
- daily per diems for coaches and chaperones
- snacks and meals if provided by the chaperone

Following the trip a reconciliation of actual expenses incurred will be completed by the Registrar, Travel Coordinator, Team Managers and Treasurer and made available to the membership upon request via the Team Managers. A 5% levy will be added to the actual expenses total in determining the cost per player of a tournament to be charged to the player family account. Pacific Storm will retain these funds for general operation of the club in acknowledgement of the volunteer time and effort required to effectively manage travel arrangements.

Timeline and Due Dates

To obtain the best possible rates on airlines, rental vehicles and accommodations, travel arrangements are required to be made in advance. A deposit is required by the date as noted on the competition schedule or date as advised by the Team Manager to confirm who is attending and allowing the program to obtain the best deal on travel arrangements.

Travel deposit for tournament travel **not involving airfare** is required a minimum of 30 days in advance of the tournament. This is a **nonrefundable deposit** however **partial** refunds will be considered based on medical reasons at the discretion of the Club Executive.

Deposits for tournament travel **requiring airline travel** are mandatory prior to the booking of airline flights as communicated by the Team Managers. In the event an athlete does not attend the tournament they will incur all nonrefundable costs regardless of the reason for not attending.

Flight Cancellation Insurance

Pacific Storm purchases airfare on a group travel basis to obtain the best possible fares. As such, it is not possible to purchase flight cancellation insurance for individual athletes.

Luggage

Hand Luggage – when travelling by air each player should ensure that they have essential items such as medications, bathing suit, towel etc in their backpack.

Given that athletes are required to be in uniform or in waterpolo suits for the bulk of their trip, they will not need to pack excessive amounts of clothes. There is limited space in each van or car for luggage when carrying a full load of passengers. Some airlines charge extra for each bag that is checked in. Because of the above, athletes are encouraged to fit all travel items in 1 backpack.

Ground Transportation

The Club will ensure that all rental vehicles used for transporting athletes, coaches and chaperones will be properly insured with the appropriate level of coverage. Ground transportation may include rental of cars, minivans, large vans as well as coaches and/or taxis based on team requirements, cost and availability.

Accommodation

Hotel accommodations will be reserved for the teams, coaches and chaperones in advance. Consideration will be given to booking a hotel that will include a breakfast in the price, is within a reasonable distance from the event facilitating driving back and forth during the day, if necessary, in a safe neighborhood, and close to amenities if possible. Rooms with 2 beds (queens if possible) will be booked with the expectation that there are 4 players to a room.

Meals

Chaperones organize healthy meals for the team and in those cases will advise parents regarding expected food budget to provide.

Personal Vehicles used to transport athletes

When local team travel is required and athlete families volunteer to transport non family members on Pacific Storm business all drivers

- Must have a current valid Canadian drivers license; and
- Must have personal Liability coverage for a minimum of \$2,000,000; and
- Must provide a copy of their declaration of liability insurance cover prior to the commencement of the trip.

Out of Province Emergency Medical Care

Most clinics and hospitals in other Canadian provinces and territories (except Quebec) will bill your MSP plan for services provided if presented with a valid B.C. Care Card number. The provinces recover the funding monthly between each other.

When travelling in Quebec or outside of Canada, athletes will probably be required to pay for their medical services and seek reimbursement later from MSP. Note when travelling to other Canadian provinces, parents may want to purchase additional coverage to cover the cost of services not included in the reciprocal agreement between provinces.

For travel outside of Canada, all athletes are required to obtain their own travel insurance. Proof of insurance for each athlete must be provided to Team Managers 30 days prior to commencement of travel for each trip. Failure to provide proof of insurance within the published time limit may result in the athlete not being allowed to travel and will result in the forfeiture of all payment associated with the trip.

Frequently Asked Questions

I have decided not to attend the tournament which begins in 2 weeks. Why can't I get my deposit *back*?

- *Nonrefundable expenses have been incurred and the cost per player established and therefore resulting in increased costs having to be incurred by the rest of the team.*

My child has injured his hand and cannot attend the upcoming away tournament. What refund am I entitled to?

- *Many costs are non-refundable even if a doctor's note is supplied. Any non-coverable costs relating to your child's travel arrangements will need to be paid.*

I do not understand the cost I am required to pay for away tournaments. What am I paying for when I send my child on an away tournament?

- *Expenses such as tournament fees and player airfares, rental vehicles & hotel costs. Additionally coach and chaperone costs for daily per diems, flights, and accommodations are included in the costs.*

Why can't my son/daughter stay in our hotel room during the tournament, it would reduce the cost of tournament expense for me?

- *It is important for the team to travel together as a unit. Training and team-bonding occurs outside of pool time and this is important for team cohesion and success.*

Who sets the curfew for the players at away tournaments?

- *The Coach sets the curfew for the team*

If the code of conduct is not followed what are the repercussions?

- *The coach and chaperone will decide on the severity of the situation. Depending on the severity of the infraction, a decision will be made that could include a range of discipline including benching the player for one game, multiple games, or possibly sending the player home immediately at the parents' expense.*

How are hotels chosen by the club?

- *Many things are considered when booking a hotel for the team, hotel availability, past experience with the hotel, costs, location – can the pool be reached from the hotel in a reasonable amount of time, is it a good area of town. For safety of the players no individual room access directly to the outside of the building*

What are the Chaperone's responsibilities to the players at an away tournament?

- *Responsible for the safety, well-being and in conjunction with the team coach be responsible for the behaviour of players during the times they are not under the control of the coaches*
- *Responsible for meeting all athletes and travelers at the hotel/pool at the pre-determined time and making sure all are together*
- *Make sure players are aware of their schedule each morning and any changes throughout the day.*
- *The Chaperone (& Coach) will be responsible for coordinating transportation to and from the hotel, pool, airport and restaurants (including driving athletes in a rental car/van), making sure all athletes and travelers arrive together at the specified designation.*
- *Responsible for making sure the athletes have water with them, and snacks as appropriate depending on the tournament schedule, at the cost of the athletes.*
- *Responsible for scheduling quiet hours*
- *Chaperones **are not** responsible for athlete's possessions, including electronic equipment, cameras, etc.*
- *Together, in consultation with the coach, chaperones are responsible for deciding upon any disciplinary action needing to be taken as the result of misbehaviour.*

I received a parking ticket while for the purpose of Storm business at the tournament, how do I get refunded for this?

- *You don't!*

Who is in my room? I want to stay with my friend why can't I?

- *Coaches will establish room assignments. Certain things are taken into consideration when doing this, for example players who are double rostered will bunk together as this will minimize the disruption to the players who may not be required to be up and out as early as another.*