

November 30, 2010

Clubs and LSCs of USA Swimming:

This past September, the USA Swimming House of Delegates approved important legislation enhancing existing safeguards for Athlete Protection. One piece of legislation, Article 305.5, specifically addresses rules regarding travel. Article 305.5.4 further requires all clubs and LSCs to develop travel policies which must be signed and agreed to by all athletes, parents, coaches, and other adults traveling with a team. The legislation also states USA Swimming will develop and distribute a model set of travel policies that clubs and LSCs can use as an example.

Following the USAS Convention, the task of developing model travel policies was assigned to the Club Development Committee. The Committee worked collaboratively throughout October and November to create the document which I am pleased to present to you in this mailing.

This document has been developed with the goal of providing a tool which clubs and LSCs can use to create a customized set of travel policies that reflect the type of travel typical for a club or LSC. It provides a compilation of required and recommended policies, as well as a list of other policies typically used by clubs with significant experience in conducting team travel. We believe you will find these model policies helpful in developing a set of travel policies which make sense for your club or LSC.

The House of Delegates approved a deadline of December 31, 2010, for clubs and LSCs to adopt a set of travel policies. If a club or LSC chooses not to, or is unable to create a written and approved set of travel policies by that deadline, Sections 1 and 2 of the enclosed Model Travel Policies will become the default travel policies for that team or LSC. Once a customized set of policies is developed and approved by your club or LSC, the default policies will no longer apply. Please note each member club and LSC has the responsibility for approving and implementing a set of travel policies by December 31, 2010.

Should you have questions regarding the new travel policies requirement and/or the model policies, please send those questions to athleteprotection@usaswimming.org.

Thank you for your attention to this important new requirement and the upcoming December 31 deadline.

Sincerely,

Bruce Stratton
President