

Minor Athlete Travel Policy

A. Introduction

This policy is intended to ensure that youth athletes traveling to and from, and attending fencing competitions sponsored and/or organized by the Canadian Fencing Federation (CFF) are appropriately supervised by CFF staff or their designates to ensure their safety and to enhance compliance with the CFF Athlete Code of Conduct.

Athletes are expected to behave responsibly at all times, to abide by the terms of this policy, to follow all directions communicated by CFF staff, and to abide by the terms of the Athlete Code of Conduct.

Parents should be aware that although staff are responsible for the athletes for the entire trip and will always be available in case of emergency, they cannot monitor the athletes all the time and still perform their staff duties. Any parent not comfortable with this level of supervision should reconsider allowing their child to participate in the activity.

B. Application

1. Subject to Section B.3, this policy will apply when athletes are traveling to and from, and participating on trips officially sponsored and/or organized by the Canadian Fencing Federation.
2. This policy will apply to athletes who are seventeen years of age or under as of the date of the conclusion of the relevant competition.
3. A parent or guardian of an athlete to which this policy applies may, in writing, authorize the CFF to permit their child to travel without supervision, or to attend and participate in the competition without supervision, and if the CFF agrees to this direction, then the policy will not apply to the athlete to the extent of such written permission.

C. Supervision of Athletes Traveling to and from the Competition

1. During travel to, from and within the city where the tournament or event is held, the athletes will be actively supervised by CFF staff or their designates.
2. However, depending on the number of athletes and the available ground transportation, it may be necessary at times for athletes to be left without adult supervision for a specified and limited period of time while other athletes are traveling to and from the next location. Athletes in such situations will always be left in groups of two (2) or more, in a specified location such as a hotel or venue lobby, and are required to remain at this location until the transport vehicle returns for them.

D. Supervision of Athletes at the Competition

1. While at the fencing venue, CFF staff will be present and available to athletes.
2. In light of staff duties at the competition (e.g. coaching and management of the team) athletes are expected to exhibit appropriate behaviour, to seek out staff when needed, and not to leave the venue unless accompanied by, or with the permission of a staff member.
3. Athletes will travel from the hotel, dorm, residence as the case may be with a CFF staff member or designate, unless the CFF staff member permits the athletes to travel without supervision. In such a case, athletes will always travel in groups of two (2) or more.

E. Supervision of Athletes at Hotels, Dorms and other Residences.

1. When not at the venue, until lights out each night, athletes will be actively supervised by CFF staff.
2. Where there is large group of athletes attending a competition, athletes may not always be with a CFF staff member or designate while within the hotel, dorm, residence etc.
3. In order not to unduly restrict the athletes within the hotel, they are expected to follow a buddy system. If leaving the area of the hotel where staff are present, they must have at least one other athlete with them, and must ensure staff know where they are going and with whom. Fencers under 12 must ensure that at least one of their 'buddies' is 12 or over.
4. Athletes must not leave the hotel unless accompanied by a CFF staff member or designate, or with the CFF staff member's permission, and in such cases, the athletes will always travel in groups of two (2) or more..
5. Athletes are expected to be in their assigned rooms by 9:30 p.m. (local time) unless told otherwise by CFF staff, with 'lights out' at 10:30 p.m. Athletes are not permitted to enter the rooms of team mates of the opposite gender.
6. CFF Staff will check on athletes at approximately 10:30 p.m. to ensure that they are all in their assigned rooms. After 'lights out', staff supervision will switch from an 'active' to a 'passive' mode. All athletes will have been informed of the room number and phone number of the team manager who will be available in case of emergency (e.g. medical problems). Athletes will be informed of the time to meet for breakfast, at which time staff again resume an active supervisory role.