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| CATEGORY: Risk Management | LAST REVIEW: NEW |
| POLICY NUMBER: 5.6 | DATE APPROVED: November 3, 2025 |
| TITLE: Player Travel Expectations | |
| PURPOSE: To outline travel expectations for players going to and from CCMHA-sanctioned games, practices, and tournaments. | |
| RELATED GUIDELINES/DOCUMENTS: | |

1. INTRODUCTION

Travel is a big part of the hockey experience, from early morning games to weekend tournaments. While CCMHA encourages independence and responsibility in our players, it's important that we also keep safety front and center. Clear guidelines for how players travel help families plan, coaches coordinate and ensure everyone arrives safely and on time.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy ensures safe, consistent, and responsible travel for CCMHA players, with clear guidelines for away game and tournament transportation and for practice travel within local areas. It prioritizes player safety, supports Hockey Nova Scotia's safety expectations while maintaining consistency across all divisions.

3. TRAVEL GUIDELINES

1. Local Practice and Home Game Travel

- Players may transport themselves to and from practices and home games within the Amherst, Springhill, and Oxford areas, as these are considered local travel and not extended travel.
- Players must follow all provincial driving laws and demonstrate responsible conduct when traveling to these local events.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to confirm safe arrival and departure for locally driven practices and home games.
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2. Away Game and Tournament Travel

- All players must travel with a parent, guardian, or another approved adult driver for these events. Players are not permitted to drive themselves to or from away games or tournaments.
- Players may not transport teammates or other minors for away games or tournaments. Player-to-player rides are not permitted.

This policy is not intended to limit player independence. Its purpose is to prioritize safety, align with CCMHA's values, and reduce risk during longer-distance or higher-risk travel.

4. FAMILY AND TEAM TRAVEL RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging appropriate transportation for their child(ren) to all CCMHA activities. Carpooling with other parents is permitted only when agreed upon by all parties involved. Teams may assist in coordinating carpooling but will not assign drivers.

Families are encouraged to plan travel in advance to prevent last-minute issues or unsafe arrangements. CCMHA supports the right of parents/guardians to choose not to travel with their child(ren) if road conditions, weather, or other circumstances make travel unsafe. CCMHA is in alignment with Hockey Nova Scotia's Winter Safety Protocols, which recognize and support parents' discretion in making travel decisions under hazardous conditions. Families are encouraged to communicate any safety concerns with their team coach or manager so alternative arrangements can be made.

Coaches and managers will remind families of this policy at the start of each season and as needed throughout. CCMHA is committed to ensuring that player safety and welfare remain the top priority while maintaining consistency across all divisions within the association.

5. NON-COMPLIANCE

CCMHA expects all players, parents/guardians, and team officials to follow this policy to help maintain a safe and consistent environment for everyone involved.

- Instances of non-compliance may be reviewed by the CCMHA Disciplinary Committee Chair, under the Association's Code of Conduct and Discipline Policy.
- The Discipline Chair will determine any necessary follow-up or corrective action, which may include, but not limited to, education, a written reminder, or other measures if safety concerns persist.
- The focus of any review will be on education, prevention, and ensuring future compliance, rather than punishment.
- Serious or repeated violations that compromise player safety or put the Association at risk may result in further action as outlined in the CCMHA Code of Conduct.

6. RATIONALE

This policy exists to ensure:

Safety: Reduces risks associated with young or inexperienced drivers on long-distance or high-traffic routes. It also minimizes exposure to adverse weather, unfamiliar roads, and fatigue-related risks, particularly during early morning departures or late-night returns from games or tournaments. Prioritizing safety protects players, coaches, and other road users.

Insurance & Liability Protection: Ensures all participants are covered under CCMHA and Hockey Nova Scotia guidelines. By requiring adult-supervised transportation for away games and tournaments, the association mitigates potential liability and demonstrates proactive risk management in alignment with provincial and national standards.

Consistency: Establishes a clear, fair standard for all CCMHA teams and families. Having one uniform policy prevents confusion, ensures equitable treatment across divisions, and supports coaches and managers in enforcing expectations without ambiguity.

Player Development & Responsibility: While the policy restricts certain forms of travel, it supports responsible independence by allowing local travel for practices and home games where risk is lower. This balance teaches players about accountability, planning, and making safe choices within clear boundaries.

Alignment with Hockey Governance: Reinforces CCMHA's commitment to Hockey Nova Scotia's Winter Safety Protocols and other risk management guidelines, demonstrating that our practices are consistent with the broader hockey community and best practices for youth sports.

7. REVIEW

The Policy will be reviewed by Cumberland County Minor Hockey on an annual basis.