

Chaperones Policy

Introduction

As part of an Athlete's development in the Alberta Luge program we offer opportunities to train and compete at facilities outside of the province and Country. It is important to maintain the values associated with the program and good sportsmanship whether at home or abroad. At all times an athlete is a representative of the program, the sport and our Nation. The code of conduct applies during all activities when travelling to all members travelling with the program; coaches, athletes, volunteers and chaperones.

Travel is an exciting development and competitive opportunity however as a means to keep costs affordable for such trips it is essential that parents and/or volunteers assist in providing supervision, support and chaperone services during these trips. The ages and numbers of athletes participating may vary from trip to trip as will the number of chaperones required. During these trips it is crucial that chaperones and coaches work together as an effective team for a safe and effective leadership which provides a positive learning environment for all the athletes.

In order to use the travel opportunity to the greatest advantage for athletes conduct must remain focused on achieving the sport goals for this particular trip. Athletes need to train hard and have time to focus their efforts on the competition or training opportunity. An atmosphere which enhances focus and concentration must be created for all athletes to achieve the best possible training or competitive result. This means good sleep, eating well and activities which foster team cohesion and the highest individual performance possible. The role of the chaperone is to foster this positive, safe and competitive atmosphere.

There often is down time when travelling and training outside of the home facility. Athletes will not be allowed to participate in these additional activities if their equipment, chores or academic requirements are not within permissible parameters. The enforcement of this standard will be the responsibility of the coaches and the chaperones as an effective leadership team for the trip.

Chaperones often are responsible for transportation as well overall meal coordination. However athletes are also responsible for chores and assisting with meal preparation and clean up. Chaperones shall coordinate the responsibilities designating individuals for specific tasks such as "kitchen boss" or "cell phone coordinator".

The primary function of the chaperone is to provide safety and supervision for children ranging in age from 10 to later adolescence. The athletes need to also monitor their own behavior as even the best supervision will at times be called to other tasks.

Policy Details

1. Scope/Applicability

This policy applies to all employees, directors, coaches, athletes, officials, volunteers and Members of ALA when traveling for the purpose of training or competing in locations both within the city, province, nationally or internationally.

2. Standard Expectations

Albert Luge Association endorses a high standard of behavior and conduct when traveling as a representative of the ALA organization. We depend on public funding to operate and as such public opinion is vital to the economic survival of the program and risk to that shall not be tolerated.

Chaperones shall not consume alcohol or use Cannabis while supervising the athletes. We are fostering an atmosphere of health and elite sport such substances can cause impairment in judgement and could put athletes or even the program at risk therefore we ask that you refrain from these activities while acting in a supervisory capacity.

Due to the nature of the sport at times there are injuries which may require a visit to the local medical clinic. Most are minor in nature and require a check by a medical professional or a brief rest before training recommences. The Chaperone shall make sure the athlete is monitored and contacts parents while the chaperone is present to ensure all communication is clear and to alleviate worry or miscommunications. This too shall be a coordinated effort between the coaches, the chaperone and the athlete.

When a more significant injury occurs the chaperone (s) and coaches will work out a plan to manage the other athletes, communicate to the family and support the athlete as required. Often this type of scenario can be challenging to coordinate with athletes at different places and limitations of transport. However, when there is a significant injury a significant injury form shall help guide the process for both coaches and chaperone.

3. Transportation

This task is often a key one for chaperones. As it assists athletes in arriving at the location for training and getting to the track or training facility on a daily basis. Timing is a crucial aspect of this task. The transportation of athletes requires the abeyance of all traffic laws including speed limits, seat belts and other important safety requirements.

The number of chaperones may vary depending on age and number of athletes. As we have a mixed program with male and female athletes it may not be possible to always have male and female chaperones or male and female coaches. ALA will try for gender neutrality however this may not always be possible.

Ideally we strive to have 1 adult for every 4 or 5 athletes if all athletes are over 12 allowing for one chaperone per condo/living space. However, if the ages of the athletes are younger the ideal ration may shrink to 1 adult for every 3 athletes. decisions may need to be based on athlete level of maturity, accommodation facilities and coaches available. If at any time parents are concerned about the level of supervision on a trip, or the chaperones assigned – they are encouraged to discuss this with coaches and ALA executive. Other options may be available such as children travelling and residing with parents while training with the team; or increasing costs to accommodate special considerations or children who require more additional supervision. However often the team cohesion is built in some of these away training environments.

4. Safety

The primary function of chaperones is to ensure the safety of all athletes particularly when they are not on the track. The coaches manage the safety during all training and race events. The chaperones are there to help support the coaches and athletes during “down” time. This means monitoring and supervising behavior of athletes to help enhance the training environment while giving the coaches some down time. Bullying and Harassment of any kind will not be tolerated please refer to the Abuse and Harassment Policy.

The chaperone may assist by offering suggested activities during down time to keep children and adolescents from getting into trouble. Some suggested activities which have been successful in the past are: sports, board games, shoveling snow, fun runs or other activities that build team cohesion, promote athleticism, fun and build a sense of team work.

5. Additional Pertinent Information

Compliance with this policy is referenced specifically in ALA's agreements and/ or contracts with athletes, employees, consultants, and Board of Directors.

6. Policy Implementation

The Executive Board and Executive Director, have shared responsibility and accountability to implement and enforce this policy.

8. Policy Exceptions and Exclusions

None

9. References

Code of Conduct
Travel Policy
Abuse & Harassment Policy
Safe Driving Guidelines
Volunteer Agreement