



**** Florida Comets, Inc. * .**
Basketball

A Non-Profit 501 C Community Service Organization
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Florida Comets, Inc.

Travel Policies

General Guidelines for Local and Away Basketball Tournaments

Attending an out-of-town basketball game with the team is a challenging and worthwhile experience. Besides building team identity and encouraging social relationships, traveling provides an opportunity for individual growth and responsibility. It is also an invaluable competitive experience, as the student/athletes are able to see top-rated teams from around the state and country.

Although the possibility of traveling increases with the increasing skill and age of the student/athlete, most student/athletes have the opportunity to attend at least one “away” basketball tournament, even if it is only to Fort Pierce or Melbourne.

Local tournaments and state tournaments are held throughout the state of Florida. National basketball tournaments may be held anywhere in the U.S. including Hawaii. Usually, the location rotates between the four time zones. All age groups are eligible to participate in the Nationals Championships. The National are generally held during the summer months and the student/athletes may need to be away for up to a week.

Because the distances required to travel to different time zones, the Nationals are usually great, air transportation is preferable. This often means that parents will not be able to attend. Over the years, the Lady Comets, Inc. have developed specific rules to cover travel away from home and family. The rules are designed to provide a dependable team structure at all times.



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The hotels used during trips are usually host hotels for that particular basketball tournament, previously arranged by the tournament organizers. These are generally high-quality facilities and are often nationally recognized names. Student/athletes usually stay 4 to a room; younger student/athletes may include a chaperone in their room(s).

Our primary concern is the safety and well being of our student/athletes. Secondly, we must ensure that good sportsmanship is practiced and the team is represented well. While it is important to have fun, the main emphasis of all trips is the competition. Traveling with the Lady Comets is a privilege. *To accomplish these goals, the following policies for PARENTS and ATHLETES are enforced:*

The Florida Comet's policies and code of conduct apply to all team activities.

For the cohesiveness and safety of all members of the team, the following **additional** travel and dress code policies will be enforced for hotel stays and team travel:

1. The team will provide sufficient chaperones based on the number of student/athletes traveling. Chaperones will be selected by the Board and should have some first-aid training. Parents wishing to chaperone a trip must apply to the Board for this position.
2. The head coach may assign a head chaperone for trips involving the entire team. The head chaperone will keep all other chaperones informed and will also keep the team bag, which contains medical release forms, all medications, first aid kit, team banner, etc.



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The traveling head coach is in charge on trips and will keep the head chaperone informed of schedules and instructions. The coaches and chaperones will make vehicle and room assignments.

3. All student/athletes must travel and room together, unless other arrangements have been made in advance through the head coach. This has proven to be very important to good competitive tournaments. Only student/athletes, official chaperones, and coaches will be allowed to stay in team rooms.

4. Student/athletes will always stay with their assigned chaperone. They should never leave the basketball gymnasium or hotel area without her/him. Even within the hotel, student/athletes must always tell their coach or chaperone where they are going, and must always go with a buddy; never, ever, anywhere alone. Any exceptions to the policy (i.e. going to dinner with family or relatives, etc.) must be cleared through the head coach, who will then inform the head chaperone. Although this is sometimes possible, it is discouraged due to a demanding schedule. The tournament director can change schedules at the last minute, so it can be nerve-wracking to have a student/athlete out of touch with the team. The competition must come first.

5. Parents must inform the head coach and head chaperone of any medical condition which might require special medication for their child. Each medication must be clearly labeled with specific instructions and given to the head chaperone.



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6. All individuals traveling with the team will be financially responsible for their own meals, souvenirs, etc.
7. Student/athletes will respect all hotel rules as well as team rules. Student/athletes will leave their hotel rooms neat and clean.
8. Student/athletes are responsible for keeping track of their own swim bags, towels and clothing.
9. Student/athletes must listen and be respectful of the coaches and chaperones.

Guidelines for Parents

When a student/athlete travels with the team to a basketball tournament for the first time, it can be both exciting and scary. First of all, the student/athlete should feel proud because they have qualified to participate at a higher level. It is an opportunity to not only grow in our sport, but also to have fun, become more responsible, and grow closer to their teammates. This is a team activity, and traveling means doing things together as a team. Student/athletes learn to help each other and work with the team staff to accomplish personal and team goals. ***Therefore, we have developed the following policies for PARENTS during team travel:***



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1. We ask that parents avoid coaching and commenting on referees during the basketball tournament. Student/athletes can be torn between following the advice of a family member and the directions of the coach. This can dramatically affect team spirit and performances.
2. We ask that you do not interrupt the student/athlete when she is working with the coach, whether it is at practice, in the basketball game, or at the hotel. Student/athletes are more easily distracted in new surroundings and it is important to the entire team that each student/athlete stay focused on the job.

Guidelines for Chaperones

Traveling as a chaperone is a fun and rewarding experience. It is also hard work and a 24-hour responsibility for the duration of the trip. Below are some helpful hints that will make the job easier:

1. The welfare and safety of the student/athlete is your primary concern. Therefore, chaperones are not permitted to bring along another child whose presence might distract them from their duties. Exceptions can be made only with the approval of the head coach and the Board of Directors.



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2. Chaperones must know where their assigned student/athletes are at all times. Likewise, the student/athletes must also know where their chaperone is and how to reach their chaperone if necessary. If you must leave your team for any reason, always leave another chaperone in charge and tell your team whom their temporary chaperone is.

3. **Chaperones may be asked to drive vehicles if necessary.** Always bring insurance information, a major credit card, current driver's license, and AAA card if you are a member. Before leaving on a trip, the team must have on record a copy of your driver's license and proof of insurance.

4. **The Head Chaperone must carry a copy with them at all times:**
 - Medical & travel permission forms for each of their student/athletes
 - All medications, complete with written instructions, required by each student/athlete
 - First aid kit

5. **At the hotel:**
 - The head chaperone must leave an accurate list of room assignments with the front desk.
 - Ensure the student/athletes know where your room is and how to reach you.
 - Review the emergency exit procedures with the student/athletes in each room.
 - Ensure the student/athletes lock their rooms and take their keys with them. Chaperones should also have keys to each student/athlete's room. Remind them to lock their rooms at night.



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- Arrange with the front desk to have the student/athlete's room phones blocked for outside calls.

They may use your room's phone for making long distance calls to home if they use their own long distance calling cards.

- There should be no pay-TV unless pre-approved by the chaperone.
- Set reasonable "lights out" times to ensure a good night's sleep before competition.
- Although you may order wake-up calls for the student/athlete's rooms, you must check each room in the morning to ensure everyone is awake and up.
- The head chaperone is in charge of check-in and checkout and accounting to the treasurer for hotel charges, auto rental expenses, and miscellaneous charges.

6. It is often easier, faster and cheaper to go to a grocery store and buy supplies for breakfast (unless it is provided by the hotel), lunch, and snacks. Be sure to check the hotel schedule for continental breakfasts; many are not early enough for us. If the entire team is planning dinner out together, the head chaperone should make reservations to ensure they receive faster service. Buffet-type restaurants work well. It is important to ensure that all student/athletes are eating and drinking well. The pressure of competition sometimes results in a "not hungry" attitude. However, the student/athletes need to keep their energy levels high in order to successfully compete so having "comfort" carbohydrates that each student/athletes likes can help with a nervous stomach.



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7. The head chaperone will confirm the next day's schedule with the coach and inform all other chaperones. They must then inform the student/athletes and encourage them to prepare for the next day's events. Usually, in the morning, student/athletes must take everything they may need to the gym for a full day of competition.

8. If there is time for sightseeing, as deemed by the head coach, you may coordinate the sightseeing trip. Remember, however, that the focus of the trip is the tournament; any extra activities must not detract from that purpose. Loss of a sightseeing activity because of a change in the tournament schedule can lead to unnecessary disappointment.