

# Boise Timbers|Thorns Soccer Club

## Travel Code of Conduct

At Boise Timbers | Thorns Soccer Club, Inc. ("BTT"), we are committed to fostering a positive, safe, and respectful environment for all players, parents, staff and volunteers. Travel competition provides a unique opportunity for player growth, but also presents unique challenges that, if not managed appropriately, can have severe negative impacts on player development and Club reputation. This Travel Code of Conduct is intended to set clear behavioral expectations for all involved with respect to travel competitions, with emphasis on promoting sportsmanship, goodwill and safety.

### 1. Adherence to Player and Parent/Spectator Codes of Conduct

BTT has established existing Codes of Conduct for Players and for Parents/Spectators. All individuals involved with travel competitions affiliated with BTT, including players, parents, guardians, supporters, and family members, are expected to adhere to those existing Codes of Conduct as they may be periodically updated from time to time. Ignorance to these Codes of Conduct shall not be a defense to any violation thereof. By participating in travel-based programming, all players and spectators agree to the expectations set forth herein.

### 2. Additional Expectations for Travel Competition

**In addition to the Player and Parent/Spectator Codes of Conduct, all participants in Club Travel competitions are expected to follow the letter and spirit of the following guidelines:**

- Participation:
  - All players and supporters are expected to adhere to all team and/or program communicated events, details, meals, times and items **mandated** within the event/fixture itinerary, including all off-field expectations such as curfews, wake-up times, meals and team-bonding activities.
- Player Rooms (U13 and above):
  - Assigned player rooms -
    - Players are expected to be present in their assigned player rooms between curfew and wake-up.
    - Informal player room reassignment and/or changing rooms without coach authorization is not permitted without prior head coach approval.
    - Players may only be present in non-assigned rooms before curfew when at least one player of the assigned room is also present.
    - Any room damage must be reported immediately and will be the responsibility of the players assigned to the room (unless investigation/facts dictate otherwise).
    - Players shall respect the personal space and property of all other players. Players shall not touch, move, or use another player's belongings without permission.
    - Players shall maintain neat and tidy rooms, and any messes shall be promptly cleaned by those responsible for the mess.
    - Player room doors should never be propped or manipulated to stay open or ajar.
  - Players should always be in groups of 3 or more when outside of their rooms.
    - No players are allowed to leave hotel and/or event premises without supervision of an adult/chaperon, without exception.
  - It is strictly prohibited for players of opposite genders to be in player rooms at any time (i.e. girls only in girls' player rooms, and boys only in boys' player rooms).

- Social Media:
  - There shall be no non-consensual publication of any image, description, recording, or other content regarding any other player or player's property. It is strictly prohibited for players to use social media to harm the reputation of others or the soccer community.
- NO Bullying:
  - Players shall not bully any other player or participant.
    - Bullying includes any behavior intended to cause fear, humiliation, or social exclusion or alienation of any other person.
      - Bullying need not be repeated or persistent; depending on the nature of the conduct involved, singular instances of bullying behavior may be sufficient to warrant serious consequences, up to and including dismissal from the Club and/or referral to appropriate authorities.
  - Use of cameras, recordings, and photographs for inappropriate behavior and/or nonapproved use fall under this and can be reported to Safe Sport for processing and consequences as appropriate..

### 3. Chaperone(s)

Travel events rely heavily on the participation of chaperones. The following guidelines are applicable to participating chaperones.

- Prioritize athlete safety:
  - The chaperone's most important responsibility is the physical and emotional safety of the athletes. This includes being aware of emergency procedures, knowing the location of all athletes, and ensuring a safe hotel and travel environment.
- Model appropriate behavior:
  - As a representative of the team and a role model for the athletes, chaperones must exhibit respectful, patient, and tactful conduct. This includes adhering to a high standard of personal behavior, refraining from gossip, and treating everyone with respect.
- Maintain professionalism:
  - Chaperones are a link between the coaching staff and the athletes. They must respect coaching decisions, enforce team rules, and not undermine the coaching staff or interfere with team expectations.

#### **The following guidelines should be followed by chaperones:**

- Adhere to all team and league rules.
  - All established guidelines, including curfews, schedules, and policies on appropriate conduct for athletes and chaperones should be understood and enforced.
- Prioritize athlete safety and supervision, including but not limited to:
  - Maintaining regular awareness of the location of all athletes in their care.
  - Conducting regular headcounts, especially during transitions like hotel check-ins, meals, and rental car/bus rides.
  - Never being present in a hotel room alone with an unrelated minor athlete.
  - Following the "rule of two," ensuring another chaperone or adult is present in one-on-one situations with an athlete.
- Enforce athlete boundaries and team rules, included but not limited to:
  - Enforcement of curfew, as all athletes should be in their rooms at the time designated by the team itinerary.
  - Prohibition of athletes visiting rooms of athletes of the opposite gender.

- Monitoring and management of inappropriate behavior in hotel common areas, such as loud noise or loitering.
- Promote a healthy and respectful environment, included but not limited to:
  - We want players to learn the life skill of time management, chaperons do not have to perform duties in an overbearing mannerism or micromanaging cadence.
  - Provide a drug, alcohol, and tobacco-free atmosphere for the athletes. Do not consume these substances in the presence of athletes.
  - Refrain from using foul, abusive, or vulgar language, and do not tolerate it from the athletes.
  - Promote positive and supportive communication among athletes.
- Handle emergencies and athlete needs appropriately, included but not limited to:
  - Maintain awareness of the emergency plan and be prepared to act in case of an evacuation or other emergency.
  - Maintain awareness of any athlete's health or allergy concerns and know how to respond.
  - Report all injuries and illnesses to the appropriate coaching staff and, if necessary, to the parents.
  - Ensure athletes have access to healthy food, snacks, and fluids.
- Respect confidentiality, included but not limited to:
  - Maintain the privacy of any sensitive information learned about an athlete.
  - Refer parents and athletes with serious concerns to the coaching staff or team leadership.
- Address violations of the Club Codes of Conduct, included but not limited to:
  - Handle minor infractions with coaching staff input.
  - Understand that severe or repeated violations by a chaperone may result in immediate dismissal from the trip and potential disciplinary action.

***By default, if a team or age does not have a set chaperon/chaperones structure, all the above are expectations of all attending Parents/Adults.***

#### **For All Participants (Players, Parents, Adults, Supporters)**

- Adhere to Rules:
  - Obey all rules of the airports, transportation providers, facilities, hotels, the sport, the event/league and the club.
- Promote a Safe Environment:
  - Uphold the safety of all participants, free from drugs, alcohol, or tobacco.
- Maintain Integrity:
  - Act with integrity and in a manner that reflects positively on our Club and the overall soccer community.
- Reporting:
  - Anyone aware of conduct in violation of these Codes of Conduct is required to report it to a coach, team/club official, or designated representative.
- Reporting Structure:
  - Parents/players should report bullying to the coach or manager, who then informs a director or board member. For serious concerns or abuse, contact the BTT Executive Director, Program Platform Lead and/or law enforcement.
- Consequences:
  - Violations of the code can result in disciplinary action, including removal from the activity, future travel/event rostering and/or dismissal from Club programming.
- Investigation and Confidentiality:

- Reports are taken seriously and investigated promptly. Confidentiality is maintained to protect all parties and support the process of objectivity, education, continual improvement, corrective action/change and consequences associated.