



# Palm Beach Gardens Predators

## Girl's DPL

### Club Travel Policy

Palm Beach Gardens Predators has some teams that travel regularly to play in tournaments, has some teams where travel is limited to a few events per season, and some teams where there is no travel other than local travel to and from our own area. Palm Beach Gardens Predators prohibits all types of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, threats, harassment and hazing. Palm Beach Gardens Predators has established policies to guide our travel, minimize one-on-one interactions and reduce the risk of abuse or misconduct. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase player safety and improve the player's experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

#### Team Travel

Team travel is overnight travel that occurs when Palm Beach Gardens Predators or one of its teams or designees' sponsors, coordinates or arranges for travel so that the team can compete locally, regionally or nationally. Because of the greater distances, coaches, staff, volunteers and chaperones will often travel with the players.

- When possible, Palm Beach Gardens Predators will provide reasonable advance notice before team travel. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a contact person within Palm Beach Gardens Predators or the team. This individual will be the point of contact to confirm your intention to travel and to help with travel details.
- Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangements with a minor player (unless the coach is the parent, guardian or sibling of the player).
- The coach or his/her designee will establish a curfew by when all players must be in their hotel rooms or in a supervised location. Regular monitoring and curfew checks will be made of each room by at least two properly background screened adults. At no time will only one adult be present in a room with minor players, regardless of gender.
- Team personnel shall ask hotels to block adult pay per view channels for all rooms.
- Individual meetings between a coach and a player may not occur in hotel sleeping rooms and must be held in public settings or with additional adults present, with at least one of those adults being the same gender as the player.

- Parents/Guardians who wish to stay in the team hotel are permitted. Please do not interfere with the arrangements made by Palm Beach Gardens Predators should you decide to stay in the same hotel.
- The team will make every effort to accommodate reasonable parental requests when a child is away from home without a parent. If any special arrangements are necessary for your child, please contact the team personnel who can either make or assist with making those arrangements.
- No coach or chaperone shall at any time be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while performing their coaching and/or chaperoning duties.
- Prior to any travel, coaches will endeavor to make players and parents aware of all expectations and rules. Coaches will also support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of the players for adherence to curfew restrictions and other travel rules.
- If disciplinary action against a player is required while the player is traveling without his/her parents, then except where immediate action is necessary, parents will be notified before any action is taken, or immediately after.

#### **Activity Policy**

- Team members will display proper respect and sportsmanship toward coaches, officials, administrator, teammates, fellow competitors and the public at all times.
- Team members and staff will refrain from any illegal or inappropriate behavior that would detract from a positive image of the team or be detrimental to its performance objectives.
- Players are expected to remain with the team at all times during the trip. Players are not to leave the competition venue, the hotel, restaurant or any other place at which the team has gathered without the permission/knowledge of the coach or chaperone.
- When visiting public places such as shopping malls, movie theatres, etc., players will stay in groups of no less than five persons. Athletes 12 and under will be accompanied by a chaperone.
- The possession or use of alcohol or tobacco products by any athlete is prohibited.
- The possession, use or sale/distribution of any controlled or illegal substance or any form of weapon is strictly forbidden.

### **Behavior Policy**

- Team members are reminded that when competing in tournaments, traveling on trips and attending other club-related functions, they are representing both themselves and Palm Beach Gardens Predators. Athlete behavior must positively reflect the high standards of the club.
- Be quiet and respect the rights of teammates and others in the hotel at all hours.
- Be prompt and on time to all team activities/functions.
- Follow cell phone usage guidelines - no cell phones permitted at team functions, meals, games, trainings, etc.
- Electronic Gaming Consoles (Playstation, Xbox, etc.) are not allowed on Team Travel.
- Follow all scheduled curfew times - STAY IN YOUR ASSIGNED ROOMS.

### **Financial Policy**

- No room service without permission, NO EXCEPTIONS
- Players are responsible for all incidental charges in their rooms
- Players are responsible for any damages or thievery at hotel
- Players must participate in all group meals
- Communicate travel reimbursement information and policies

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

Palm Beach Gardens Predators is committed to providing players a fun, positive, and secure environment in which to learn and enjoy the game of soccer. We do not tolerate bullying at any practice, game or other PBU sanctioned event. We will promote a TELLING atmosphere. This means that anyone who knows that bullying is taking place is expected to report the incident. Players and parents should be assured that they will be supported when bullying is reported.

### **Definition of Bullying**

Bullying is defined as conduct, gestures or comments which are insulting, intimidating, humiliating, hurtful, malicious, degrading or otherwise offensive to a player, group of players and/or teammates, and which create a hostile or intimidating environment, or which negatively affects a player's physical and/or emotional well-being. Bullying is any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic

communication, whether it is a single incident or a series of incidents that results in intentional pain and distress to the victim.

### **Signs of Bullying**

A child may indicate he or she is being bullied through various signs and symptoms. While some children are prone to report bullying to their parents, coaches or adults, others will not, due to fear, intimidation or other factors. Coaches and parents should be aware of possible signs indicating that bullying may be taking place. These signs and behaviors could indicate other problems, but bullying should be considered a possibility and should be investigated.

### **Procedures for Parents, Coaches, and the Executive Director**

- Parents should report bullying incidents to the team coach or manager. If the problem persists, reach out to the Palm Beach Gardens Predators Director of Coaching or Technical Director. If necessary and appropriate, police may be consulted.
- In all cases of reported bullying, parents of the player who was bullied shall be informed immediately and may be asked to meet with the respective team coach and/or coaching director to discuss the incident. In all cases, strict confidentiality shall be maintained. It is not our goal to make a public example of reported incidents.
- The negative behavior must be investigated, and the bullying stopped immediately. The parents of any player who is reported to be bullying will be contacted immediately by the respective team coach, coaching director, or PBU Executive Director and asked to meet to discuss the incident to help the bully or bullies change their behavior.

### **Consequences of Bullying**

- In a first offense situation involving bullying, an attempt will be made to encourage the bully (or bullies) to modify their behavior for their benefit, for the benefit of the person bullied, and for the team. An attempt will be made by the coach, manager, or parent(s) to reconcile the situation between players (age and level of maturity and or severity of offense must be considered).
- If the bullying persists, disciplinary action against a player may be taken by the team coach and/or PBU Executive Director which may include, but is not limited to, immediate suspension from participation in practices or game(s) for a period of time.
- After the incident/incidents have been investigated and addressed, the situation will continue to be monitored by the respective team coach, team manager, and players' parents to ensure the problem is resolved.

**Failure to comply with the Travel Policy as set forth in this document may result in disciplinary action. Such discipline may include, but may not be limited to:**

- **Dismissal from the trip and immediate return home at the athlete's expense;**
- **Disqualification from future games, either local or traveling**
- **Financial penalties**
- **Dismissal from team**