Emerge Academy is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for all, and to ensuring that it promotes an environment free of misconduct. Because travel to and from practices, and during the season to and from competitions, is a daily part of gymnastics life, Emerge Academy has established this Team Travel Policy to establish clear boundaries, minimize one-on-one interactions, and protect the welfare of our athletes, parents and coaches/staff during team-related travel. Adherence to these travel guidelines will increase athlete safety and improve the competitive experience while keeping travel a fun and enjoyable experience.

Team Travel involves coordinated group travel to a competition.

• Overnight travel presents a risk for athletes because opportunities for an adult to isolate an athlete increase and the athlete may depend on the adult more due to the unfamiliar surroundings.

• Local travel (defined as travel to daily training or individual athlete travel to a local meet) presents a risk for athletes because there may be controllable periods of one-on-one time that can be used to groom or abuse an athlete.

**Team Travel**

Travel for competitive team members coordinated by Emerge Academy (or Emerge Academy Booster Club) can involve travel to local invitationals, state or regional meets, or to national-level events. Depending on the number of athletes competing and the destination, travel may be by car or airplane, and can involve overnight stays.

Because of the age of the athletes and greater distances, coaches, staff, and parents/chaperones will often travel with the athletes. Emerge Academy will identify an appropriate athlete-to-chaperone ratio based on the type of travel. No adult/chaperone will engage in team travel without the proper safety requirements in place, including valid drivers’ licenses, proper insurance, well-maintained vehicles and compliance with all applicable laws.

**Overnight Travel**

For team member travel, Emerge Academy will book hotels and air travel in advance. Team members will share rooms, with 2-4 athletes assigned per room depending on accommodations. Coach-Athlete meetings do not occur in hotel rooms, and Emerge Academy will reserve a separate space for adults and athletes to socialize.

Emerge Academy encourages family members who wish to stay in the team hotel to do so. If family members do not stay in the team hotel, Emerge Academy encourages all athletes to contact parents, at a minimum, on a daily basis.

**Travel Notification**

All transportation plans must be communicated to parents with reasonable advance notice, including the dates, location and duration of competition. Travel notice will also include designated team hotels for overnight stays as well as a dedicated Emerge Academy contact person. Emerge Academy will provide to all parents, coaches and team members specific travel itineraries and include the detailed competition schedule, as well as contact information for designated team travel chaperones.

**Mixed Gender and Mixed-Age Travel**

Emerge Academy’s competitive team has male and female athletes across various ages. Athletes will only share a room with other athletes of the same sex and age group and will also be grouped by age and sex for the purposes of assigning appropriate chaperones. Regardless of gender, a coach shall not share a hotel room or other sleeping arrangement with an athlete (unless the coach is the parent of that particular athlete).

**Coach/Staff Responsibilities**

When not training, competing, or preparing for competition, coaches will monitor the activities of athletes, fellow coaches and athletes. Coaches and staff will:

• Prepare athletes for team travel and make athletes aware of all expectations. Supplemental information will be given to parents of athletes who are considered inexperienced travelers, new or relatively new to team travel, or who are under the age of 18.

• Familiarize themselves with all travel itineraries and schedules before the initiation of team travel.

• Encourage athletes to participate in regular, at least daily, scheduled communications with their parents.

• Help athletes be on time for all team commitments.

• Assist with team travel logistical needs.

• Support chaperones and/or participate in the monitoring of athletes for adherence to curfew restrictions set based on age and competition schedule as listed in travel itinerary.

• Make certain that athletes are not alone in a hotel room